



# LAKE CALUMET CLUSTER SITE

March 2022



# CONTENTS

## **INTRODUCTION..... 1**

Describes the purpose of this CIP, presents U.S. EPA's community outreach objectives and provides a brief history about the site.

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS..... 4**

Community members concerns, questions and comments.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GOALS AND ACTIVITIES..... 9**

Goals, activities and timeline to keep community members and local officials informed and involved.

## **THE COMMUNITY..... 16**

Composition of the South Deering, Hegewisch, Riverdale, West Pullman, Roseland, Pullman, and East Side Neighborhoods in Chicago.

## **THE SITE..... 31**

Description and history of activities.

## **APPENDICES..... 34**

### **Appendix A – Glossary – Initials – Acronyms:**

Definition of key words, initials and acronyms (words are in bold throughout the document). Additional Superfund key words are also included in this Appendix.

### **Appendix B – Community Resources:**

Places where community members can find more information about the site and possible meeting locations.

**Appendix C – List of Contacts:** List of federal, state, and local agencies and interested groups.

**Appendix D – Community Engagement and the Superfund Process:** U.S. EPA's step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up a contaminated site and opportunities for community involvement.

**Appendix E – Fact Sheets:** Site-related fact sheets and fact sheets on contaminants.

### **Appendix F – Environmental Justice:**

Environmental Justice and U.S. EPA's commitment to the affected communities.

# INTRODUCTION

**Describes the purpose of this CIP, presents EPA's community outreach objectives and provides a brief history about the site.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prepared this **Community Involvement Plan**, or **CIP** to inform, engage and support the communities near the Lake Calumet Cluster site located in Chicago, Illinois. Our **community involvement** effort is committed to promoting effective and meaningful communication between the public and the Agency. We want to make sure that (1) members of the affected communities know and understand when and how they can participate in decision making during the **cleanup** activities at this site and (2) the communities' concerns and information needs are considered and addressed as activities at the site progress.

**The CIP is a working document that will evolve as the investigation and cleanup process continues and input is received from the community. It is intended to be flexible, adaptable and used as a guideline for our communication with the community.**

This CIP was prepared to support environmental and cleanup activities at and near the Lake Calumet Cluster site. We used several information sources to develop this plan, including research, discussions with community members and information gathered at community interviews. Because of COVID-19, U.S. EPA scheduled virtual interviews with community members. We conducted virtual interviews with 25 individuals between October 12 and December 3, 2021 with local residents, members of local community groups, media, business organizations and other parties interested in activities and cleanup efforts.

*(Words in **bold** are defined in Appendix A.)*

## U.S. EPA's community outreach objectives:

- Assist the public in understanding the decision-making process during the investigation and cleanup and the community's role in that process.
- Give the public accessible, accurate, timely and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.
- Ensure adequate time and opportunity for the public to give informed and meaningful input and for that input to be considered.
- Reflect community concerns, questions and information needs.
- Respect and fully consider public input throughout the entire process.

This CIP describes U.S. EPA's plan for addressing concerns and keeping residents informed and involved in investigation and cleanup activities at the site. We will use this document as a guide to involve and communicate with residents, businesses and the local governments in the city of Chicago.

If you are interested in submitting comments or have questions or suggestions concerning this CIP, please contact:

### **Cheryl Allen**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
312-353-6196  
[allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov)

## Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice Act of 1992 obligates federal agencies to make **environmental justice** part of its overall mission by “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” Following this order, the Office of Environmental Equity within U.S. EPA became the Office of Environmental Justice. U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice ensures that all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process for a healthy living, learning, and work environment. Ensuring environmental justice means not only protecting human health and the environment for everyone, but also ensuring that all people are treated fairly and are given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. U.S. EPA considers the neighborhoods affected by the Lake Calumet Cluster Superfund site discussed in this CIP are environmental justice communities, which means they are communities that historically are under-represented minority and low-income areas burdened with significant environmental challenges.

When making decisions about a cleanup and planning its community involvement initiative for a community, environmental justice issues must be taken into account. As part of this effort, U.S. EPA collaborates with the state agencies, representatives from the city of Chicago and concerned residents in addressing environmental challenges in more effective, efficient and sustainable ways.

### **U.S. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys:**

- the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

*For more information on Environmental Justice, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>*

# Community Engagement is Essential to the Success of Superfund Cleanups

Ongoing input and involvement by the community is essential to our efforts to provide effective **community engagement**. We have learned that the Agency's decision-making ability is enhanced by actively seeking input and information from the community. Community members need to be involved in all phases of the investigation and cleanup so that the **contamination** is addressed in a way that protects people and the environment – now and in the future.

Residents, business owners and local government officials may be able to provide valuable information about a hazardous site that can help us determine the best way to clean it up. Information can help determine the location of contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination and perhaps sources of the contamination.

Local residents educated U.S. EPA about their community and told U.S. EPA about their concerns, which are explained in the Community Concerns and Questions section beginning on the next page.



*A family enjoys the wooden beginner's track at Big Marsh.  
(Photo courtesy of Friends of Big Marsh)*

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Summarizes what community members are concerned about, the questions they asked and what they told U.S. EPA.

## What We Heard

**This section focuses on the concerns and issues that U.S. EPA heard from community members about the site.**

We learned about concerns, questions and informational needs related to the Lake Calumet site by conducting virtual interviews with residents and other interested community members between October 12 and December 3.

**Note to readers: This section is intended to faithfully record and reflect the issues and concerns expressed to U.S. EPA by residents and others interviewed during the community interviews. By necessity, this is a collection and summary of thoughts and observations and, in some cases, opinions. Please be cautioned that the statements contained in this section may or may not be factual and that the opinions and concerns expressed may or may not be valid.**

To prepare for the community interviews, U.S. EPA mailed out a fact sheet to community members on the site mailing list comprised of residents from the neighborhoods surrounding the site. During the interviews, community members were also asked for recommendations of other people that U.S. EPA should talk to. U.S. EPA reached out to these people and included several in the virtual interviews. U.S. EPA conducted virtual interviews with 25 individuals. The interviews were conducted in a discussion format and each interviewee was asked questions from a list and follow-up questions were suggested by the discussions. The U.S. EPA **Community Involvement Coordinator**, or **CIC**; **remedial project manager**, or **RPM**, participated in the interviews. Almost all of the people we interviewed were residents of the area. The remaining worked in the area. Most were aware of the site, but about a half dozen were not aware before receiving U.S. EPA's mailing.



## Community Concerns

Interviewees expressed several concerns about the Lake Calumet Cluster site. These concerns are presented below.

### LENGTH OF TIME

About half of the people we spoke with expressed frustration at how long the investigation and cleanup has taken. Most of those individuals were aware of the site, but even some who were not aware of the site before the community interviews said they were disappointed at how long the process takes. One of those individuals said, “I would have thought the work would have started by now.” Several people explained to U.S. EPA that the community is very actively interested in environmental justice issues and the fact that the investigation and cleanup of this site has taken so long to resolve is going to be a problem for the Agency. They said the Agency needs to be prepared that people will be upset about the length of time it is taking. People will feel that the government is letting them down. They stated that U.S. EPA will need to especially explain why it has taken so long to fix the cover. They said the Agency will need to make it clear that the landfill has not been posing risk to the community in the meanwhile. A couple of people said they understood that “these types of cleanups” can take a long time.

### HEALTH

Many people expressed concern about the potential health risks that the site could pose to the community. Several said there were high cancer rates in the community. One of those individuals told EPA that Altgeld Gardens had the highest cancer rate in Illinois. She followed up by sending the Agency the results of health studies conducted in the community. Two people expressed concern about the asthma rates and respiratory problems in the area. A couple stated that there are a lot of “weird” diseases in the area. Another expressed concern about the neurological issues in the community like autism. She said she was concerned about the effects of heavy metals on children. She and several others also said they were not only concerned about people’s physical health, but also their developmental and mental health caused by dealing with the impact of contamination in the community, lack of greenspace, stress-related illnesses and living in a food desert. Another person expressed concern about rising infertility rates in the community. Several people said that they were not aware of the contamination and they became concerned about how it could affect their health and

the health of the neighbors. A couple people said the Agency needed to explain that people would not get sick by being near the site. One person said that he believed there is always a concern about the pollution in the area, but because the Lake Calumet Cluster site is largely in an unused area, there should be no real exposure to people.

**“As we improve the recreational assets and ecology of nearby natural areas, it’s imperative we are inviting people, flora and fauna to a healthy community.”**

*Local organization leader*

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Many people U.S. EPA spoke with expressed concern about the potential affect the contamination could have on the surrounding environment. Several stated they were specifically concerned about contamination in Indian Ridge Marsh. One couple said they were concerned about runoff from the landfill going into Indian Ridge Marsh. Two people said that dumping was still going on in Indian Ridge Marsh. One said there is a lot of wildlife in Indian Ridge Marsh. Another interviewee said that the area has good surface water because of the great filtration capacities of vegetation, which makes the area good for aquatic life. She was concerned that any potential contamination of sediment could detrimentally impact the surface water and, in turn affect the aquatic life. Another expressed concern about contaminated groundwater from the site impacting Indian Ridge Marsh.

Several people said that all the area wetlands are important to migrating birds and the disposal and landfill activity in the area have a real impact on the wetlands, birds and other wildlife. They pointed out that so much of the wetlands had already been lost to the industrial development of the area, so they were very concerned that remaining wetlands be protected. An area teacher talked about how she and her students have observed a lot of prairie plants, beavers, eagles, herons and egrets in the area near the site. She said that her students have conducted surface water sampling in the area and have found a lot of biodiversity in the water. She also explained that Powderhorn Prairie, which is about a mile south of the site, is considered the most biodiverse area in Chicago. She said that she would therefore be concerned about the affect any pollution would have on the area biodiversity.



Finally, a couple of people told the Agency that there were a lot of dead geese in Wolf Lake in March 2021 and that really concerned them.

All said they would like to see the cleanup address the potential effect on Indian Ridge Marsh, area wetlands, wildlife and birds. The area teacher said she would like her students to have hope for the future of the environment and would like to teach them how they can help.

## SITE REUSE

Several people expressed interest in what the land would be used for once the site is cleaned up. A couple said that people in the community were concerned that the site would be used for industrial purposes. They said they would like to see it used for something recreational. A few others also stated that they would like it used for recreational purposes. Another expressed interest in the land being reclaimed as a wetland.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONTAMINATION

Several people expressed concern about the contamination from the site affecting the soil, groundwater and air in their neighborhoods. A few questioned whether the contamination could have already impacted their immediate neighborhood. A couple people said they were also concerned about contamination from the landfill becoming airborne during the cleanup and impacting the surrounding neighborhoods. One person questioned if it was safe to plant a garden.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Several people talked to U.S. EPA about the Agency's communications. A few said the Agency should be open with people and explain that the Agency is there to help. They also said U.S. EPA should point out the good it is doing. They said a lot of people in the community are skeptical of the government. They told U.S. EPA that people also do not understand why it takes so long and that the Agency should explain what the steps are that take so long. People also said to keep communication simple, show what your accomplishments have been and give examples. One person said that people did not know where the site was. She said the Agency needs to explain the location of the site relative to street boundaries. Another person said that the site information was understandable, but that U.S. EPA should explain why it is important to people. Still another said receiving regular information would help put her at ease.

## ODOR

A few people told us they were concerned about the odor in the area. They wondered if it was being caused by the Lake Calumet Cluster site. They were also concerned that the odor could also cause potential health problems.

## HOME VALUES

A few people stated that they were concerned about the potential effect of the site on home values in the areas closest to the site. They all acknowledged that there were no homes really near the site – as one put it, the site was “tucked away”. However, they still expressed concern that the potential association with the contamination could make it difficult for people to sell their homes or could impact the values of the homes.

## NONE

A few people U.S. EPA spoke with stated that they did not have any real concerns about the site. One said that around 20 years ago he might have but not now. He said it is much better. Another said, “So, there is no problem, you are going to clean it up and you have someone to pay for it? Then, go ahead!”

## STIGMA

A couple people talked about the stigma attached to the entire area due to the legacy of the pollution caused by the steel mills and other industry over the years and the subsequent economic decline caused by the loss of the industry. They said it was hard to get people to invest in the community because of that stigma. They said that the cleanup of the site would help toward combatting that stigma. They said they would like the area to be safer environmentally and have a better reputation so that they could attract more investment in the community.

## GLAD IT IS BEING CLEANED UP

Most people EPA spoke with said that they were glad the Agency was involved and getting the site cleaned up.

**“Short and long term planning for the Cluster Sites and surrounding area is a critical piece to reconciling environmental justice in the immediate area.”**

*Local organization leader*

## Other community concerns:

- A couple of people also expressed concern about the Paxton Landfills. They said they would like to see them cleaned up also.
- One person expressed concern about potential lead water lines in the community.
- A couple of people said people in the area have a lot of environmental issue coming in from all sides.
- One person expressed concern about the loss of jobs due to the loss of industry in the area.
- One interviewee expressed concern about the pollution in Lake Calumet.
- One person expressed concern about land-use in the area in general.
- One said there was a city dump in the area and was worried about the potential interaction between it and the site.
- Several expressed frustration with the fact that a metal shredding facility was trying to relocate to the southeast side of the city after having been forced out of the affluent, primarily white, Lincoln Park neighborhood due to health concerns. They questioned why it would then be placed in their, primarily minority, community. They also explained that the community input was not being adequately considered in the placement of the shredder. They said that the potential relocation of the shredder is one of many EJ issues facing the community.

## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

U.S. EPA asked interviewees for suggestions on how to engage other community members, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of their suggestions are listed below.

- Distribute written materials at various locations throughout the community including local organizations, community centers, churches, schools, libraries, etc.
- Work through local organizations and churches.
- Make sure to keep the local and state officials informed by providing information for them to include in their communications.
- Keep offices of Chicago Housing Authority projects informed.
- Reach out to schools and organizations geared toward children such as boy scouts, girl scouts and community sports groups.
- Involve local science teachers.
- Post information on Facebook.
- Attend local events.
- Give tours of the site.

## Questions interviewees asked U.S. EPA

U.S. EPA will respond to these questions in fact sheets, email updates or at public meetings.

- How much more will be done to the cover?
- What will be done with the land after the cleanup?
- Who owns the site?
- Is the odor I smell in the area from the site? If so, does it cause any health issues?
- Could another waste company that is trying to move into the area make the contamination at the Lake Calumet Cluster site worse?
- Can the landfill contamination affect the soil in my neighborhood?
- How far could the contamination spread?
- Does the contamination at the site impact the surrounding community?
- Is there a liner under the landfill?
- Is the contamination airborne?
- Is the contamination associated with the old steel mills?
- What is the status of the cap?
- How much of a cover is already on the site?
- What are you expecting the end use will be?
- What is the relationship between this landfill and the Paxton Landfills?
- Why is the investigation and cleanup taking so long?
- What is the schedule/timeline for the rest of the cleanup?
- Once the site is cleaned up, what will it look like to a passerby?
- Will it be accessible to the public?
- What does EPA plan to do at the site?
- Do you have any results you can share with us now?
- Are the PRPs the ones that were operating the landfill?
- Do you have a list of the PRPs?
- Has there been groundwater going into Indian Ridge?
- Who is going to pay for this?
- How many groundwater samples were taken?

### WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

When asked what was special about their community, people said:

- Nature is coming back to the area.
- The area is special because of all of the natural areas.
- People are tough.
- Such a biodiverse ecosystem.
- “Just like the roots of the people in the community are deep, the root system of all of the plant life in the area is deep.” Kate
- Everyone tries to help each other.
- Tight knit community.
- We are all connected.
- It is like Mayberry.



*Aerial photo of Big Marsh.  
(Photo courtesy of Friends of Big Marsh)  
Big Marsh is a 297-acre bike park and natural area  
on Chicago's Southeast Side.*

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

**Highlights U.S. EPA's goals, activities and timeline to keep community members and local officials informed and involved.**

When establishing the objectives for a site-specific community involvement program, we consider several factors, including federal requirements and U.S. EPA policy that assess the nature and extent of known or perceived site contaminants and known community concerns and requests.

**Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members. The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups.**

To be effective, our community involvement program is designed to meet the community's need to know, give information in a timely manner and accommodate the community's interests and its willingness to participate in decision-making processes. We must also share information in language the public can understand.

To meet the needs of the community and to respond to information obtained during discussions and virtual community interviews conducted with residents and other community members in October and November 2021 and to meet federal requirements, we have established the following objectives for our community involvement efforts:

- Enlist the support, coordination and involvement of the city of Chicago officials and community leaders.
- Monitor community interest in the site and respond accordingly.
- Keep the community well informed of ongoing and planned site activities.
- Explain technical site activities and findings in an understandable format for community members.
- Get public input on key decisions.
- Change planned activities, where warranted, based on community input.
- Update U.S. EPA's website regularly and provide useful information on it for the community.
- Update the city of Chicago officials on a periodic basis even if no activities are occurring at the site.
- Hold **public meetings**, when necessary, within the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend.

U.S. EPA has or will put in place the activities described on the following pages to meaningfully and actively engage the community in decisions regarding the investigation and cleanup of the Lake Calumet Cluster site. The following plan is intended as opportunities for communication between the community and U.S. EPA occur and to address key concerns and questions raised during the discussions and virtual community interviews conducted in October and November 2021.

## Specific Community Involvement Activities

To meet federal requirements and to address community concerns and questions described in the Community Concerns section, U.S. EPA has conducted (or will conduct) the activities described below. Through these activities, it is our goal to inform, involve and engage the community during site cleanup decisions and efforts. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them.

### MAINTAIN POINT OF CONTACT.

Cheryl Allen is the primary liaison between U.S. EPA and the community. Ms. Allen serves as the point of contact for community members and fields general questions about the site. For technical site issues, he coordinates with U.S. EPA's remedial project manager, or RPM, for the site, Shari Kolak.

We will include current contact information for the project staff on all written and electronic information and will notify the community of any contact information changes.

**U.S. EPA has designated the following people as primary site contacts for local residents:**

#### **Cheryl Allen**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
312-353-6196  
allen.cheryl@epa.gov

#### **Shari Kolak**

Remedial Project Manager  
312-886-6151  
kolak.shari@epa.gov

### ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR RESIDENTS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND RECEIVE INFORMATION.

Ms. Allen (ext. 36196) and Ms. Kolak (ext. 66151) are located in the Chicago office and can be reached using the toll-free number listed in the box above. Ask for them by name or use the telephone extensions listed above. Residents can call these numbers as questions or concerns arise instead of waiting for a public meeting or to receive written information. We will provide the toll-free number periodically in local newspaper advertisements and include the toll-free number in all fact sheets and all of our other communications with the public.

### MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

We will maintain communication with the local officials throughout the investigation and cleanup process. We also interviewed community residents and will continue to update residents on the progress at the site.

**They can also be reached weekdays toll-free at 800-621-8431 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



## SHARE SITE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET.

We will provide information on activities and post communications on the following U.S. EPA website. The website will be updated as events occur.

[www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster)

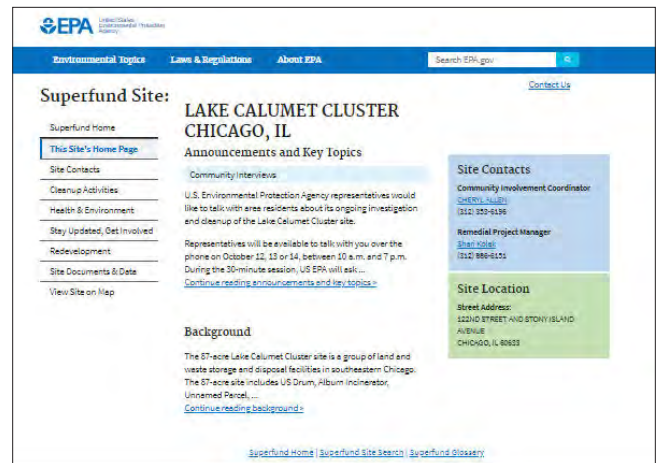
Community members interviewed recommended that U.S. EPA use local Facebook pages to reach people as well as the websites, Facebook pages, e-mail distribution lists and newsletters of the city and local organizations. See Appendix C for a list of interested parties U.S. EPA will provide information to post on their sites and/or distribute to their members electronically.

## UPDATE AND MAINTAIN THE SITE MAILING LIST.

We have established a mailing list of local community members, organizations, businesses and officials for the site. This list will be used for mailing fact sheets, site updates, invitations to public meetings and events and other site-related information mailed to the community. We will update the list regularly to reflect address changes and changes in elected officials and to add new people interested in site activities.

We use the site mailing list to distribute written information such as fact sheets and meeting notifications. This is a way to ensure that those that do not have access to the Internet or other information sources still have a way to receive information directly about the site and are notified about important meetings. The mailing list is for U.S. EPA use only and is not shared with outside entities. If a community member is interested in being placed on the mailing list, they can use the “Sign up for this Superfund site’s mailing list” link on the site profile webpage or they can contact Cheryl Allen.

We have also established an e-mail distribution list based on the virtual interviews and requests from community members. Please contact Ms. Allen to be added to this list. Most people U.S. EPA interviewed said they would prefer to receive information via e-mail. However, a few people stated that they do not have email. All believed that paper mailings should still be done in order to reach the most people.





## PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE FACT SHEETS AND SITE UPDATES.

We will prepare and distribute fact sheets, letters and site updates to those on the site mailing and e-mail lists summarizing current information about the site and describing upcoming activities. These documents are written in non-technical language and are typically published to coincide with important site activities. People we interviewed told us that there was a large Spanish-speaking population in the community. Therefore, U.S. EPA will translate fact sheets and other communication materials into Spanish. These fact sheets will be posted on U.S. EPA's website and will be printed and distributed to locations in the community. People U.S. EPA interviewed provided U.S. EPA with numerous locations throughout the neighborhoods to distribute written materials including local organizations, community centers, churches, schools, libraries, etc. Those locations are listed under neighborhood organizations in Appendix C.

We use these types of documents to give the community detailed information in a relatively quick, simple and easy-to-understand manner. In addition to being shared with individuals on the site mailing list, we also place the fact sheets and site updates in the **information repository** and post them on U.S. EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster).


## ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

We have set up two local information repositories for the site at the following locations:

**Hegewisch Branch, Chicago Public Library**  
3048 E. 130th St.  
Chicago, IL 60633

**Harold Washington Library Center**  
Government Documents, 5th Floor  
400 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60605


The repository is a collection of site information available to the public for reading and photocopying. Documents include fact sheets, technical reports,



### Update on Site Activities/ Opportunity to Talk with U.S. EPA

**Lake Calumet Cluster Site**  
Chicago, Illinois

September 2021



**We would like to hear from you!**  
See the back of this fact sheet for an opportunity to talk one-on-one with U.S. EPA.

**Contact U.S. EPA**  
For more information about the site contact:

**Cheryl Allen**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
312-353-6196  
[allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov)

**Shari Kolak**  
Remedial Project Manager  
312-886-6151  
[kolak.shari@epa.gov](mailto:kolak.shari@epa.gov)

You may call U.S. EPA's Chicago office toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

**You may review site-related documents at:**  
Chicago Public Library, Hegewisch  
3048 E. 130th St.  
Chicago, IL 60633

Harold Washington Library Center  
400 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60605

**On the Web:**  
Site documents can be found on the following website:  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing investigation and cleanup activities at the Lake Calumet Cluster Superfund site. The 87-acre site in southeast Chicago is made up of four separate parcels including U.S. Drum, Albion Incinerator, a portion of the Paxton Lagoons, and an unnamed parcel. The site is bordered by Land & Lakes Landfill to the west; Paxton I & II Landfills to the north; 122nd Street to the south; and Norfolk Southern Railroad ROW and Indian Ridge Marsh to the east. (See map above.)

The area was originally wetlands that were filled with slag, dredge spoils, demolition debris and other waste material from nearby steel mills and industries from the 1900s through the 1970s. From the 1940s to 1992, the area was used for unpermitted municipal, industrial, and chemical waste disposal. In 1998, Illinois EPA began investigating the site, which led to a decision in 2006 to install a cap, or cover, over a portion of the site. Installation of the cap began in 2007, but construction stopped in 2008 due to the lack of funding. Today, the cap remains partially constructed.

In 2008, U.S. EPA took over the investigation at the site. In 2010, the site was placed on the National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is a list of the nation's Superfund sites. Under the Superfund program, the companies identified as potentially responsible parties for the contamination, referred to as PRPs, were asked to complete an investigation of the groundwater before beginning work on the cap. From 2015 – 2017, 57 groundwater samples were collected from 13 monitoring wells around the site. In addition, the PRPs were requested to sample the surface water in the Indian Ridge Marsh. In 2020, two rounds of surface water samples were taken. U.S. EPA is in the process of reviewing the results of the sampling. The results will be available in the final investigation report, called a remedial investigation report, expected to be completed in 2023.

*Site fact sheet.*

the CIP, general Superfund information and other documents. U.S. EPA adds new documents about the site as the documents become available. Information repositories give residents local access to site information in forms that can be easily read and photocopied for future use. While most people said they would not likely go to the library for information, most said that it was still a good idea. Additional potential repository locations suggested by the community include the Altgeld, Vodak-East Side, Pullman and Jeffrey Manor Public Libraries. An online information repository is also available on the site's web page [www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster) to access information electronically.

## ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD.

A copy of the **administrative record** for the site can be found at the libraries listed above and at the U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center in Chicago (*see Appendix B*). We will update the administrative record as necessary. The administrative record gives residents a paper trail of all documents U.S. EPA relied on, or considered, to reach decisions about the site cleanup.

## CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS, HEARINGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS.

A public meeting is an opportunity for U.S. EPA to present specific information and a proposed course of action. Meetings may either be held in person or virtually. U.S. EPA staff is available to share information and answer questions. A public meeting is not a formal public hearing where testimony is received. Instead, it might be a meeting to exchange information or comments. In addition, we may hold an informal open-house style meeting, called an availability session, where residents can meet U.S. EPA experts one-on-one to discuss the activities at the site. Either type of meeting allows community members an opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions of the Agency, state or local government officials. Public meetings or availability sessions can be held at various times throughout the investigation and cleanup process. We typically schedule a meeting when there are technical milestones or when the community has expressed an interest in having a meeting.

A public hearing is a formal meeting where we hear the public's views and concerns about an U.S. EPA action or proposal. There are specific regulations about when the Agency is required to consider such comments when evaluating its actions. Public hearings are recorded by a professional transcriber and become part of the administrative record. The comments are also posted on the Web.

U.S. EPA will consider conducting additional meetings at different times and different locations throughout the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend as needed. The locations community members suggested for U.S. EPA to consider are listed in Appendix B, although most residents said that the Ford Calumet Environmental Center would be the best location.

## PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL EVENTS

On occasion, neighborhood or community groups will request U.S. EPA's participation in events to provide site information and respond to resident concerns. U.S. EPA considers invitations and offers to speak to community groups based on the event's ability to meaningfully reach members of the public. During our community interviews, residents suggested that U.S. EPA participate at events as appropriate. (*Due to COVID 19, U.S. EPA is not scheduling any in-person engagements but will once restrictions are lifted.*)

## PREPARE SITE VIDEOS

Due to the remote location of the site, to give residents a better visual of activities, U.S. EPA may consider taping a short video to show ongoing site work. The video would be posted on U.S. EPA's website.

## PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR COMMUNITIES AS NEEDED.

There are additional programs that can be helpful to the community if there is a need for them. Two of these programs are the **Technical Assistance Services for Communities**, or **TASC**, and the **Technical Assistance Grant**, or **TAG**. The TASC program supplies communities with technical help so they can better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and U.S. EPA actions. TAGs provide money for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites. For more information on these and other programs available, visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-technical-assistance-communities](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-technical-assistance-communities)

## **WRITE AND DISTRIBUTE NEWS RELEASES AND PUBLIC NOTICES.**

We will prepare and release announcements to the local newspaper such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Northwest Indiana Times/Hammond Times*, *Hegewisch Times* and *Pullman Flyer* to share information about events such as significant site investigation findings, **public comment periods**, public meetings and completion of major milestones such as the proposal of a cleanup plan. We will also provide this information to the area Aldermen and Alderwomen for posting on their websites as well as publishing in any community newsletters.

News releases allow us to reach large audiences quickly.

We will also post the news releases on the website, [www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster).

U.S. EPA will issue news releases and public notices as site activities progress. We will also put copies of the news releases and public notices in the site information repository.

## **EVALUATE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH EFFORTS AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS WARRANTED.**

This CIP was designed to consider site- and community-specific factors as well as to comply with federal requirements. This CIP summarizes community concerns gathered during discussions and interviews with local residents and other community members. Based on that information, U.S. EPA has developed the objectives of the community involvement program for the site and some specific activities to address these concerns. We recognize that changes in areas such as community perceptions, information needs and population demographics can occur over time and that such changes may necessitate a revised approach to conducting community involvement activities. For this reason, as well as to determine whether the activities in this revised plan are achieving their intended objectives, we will conduct periodic reviews to determine whether additional activities are warranted or whether changes to the activities outlined in this plan are necessary. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them in a CIP revision.

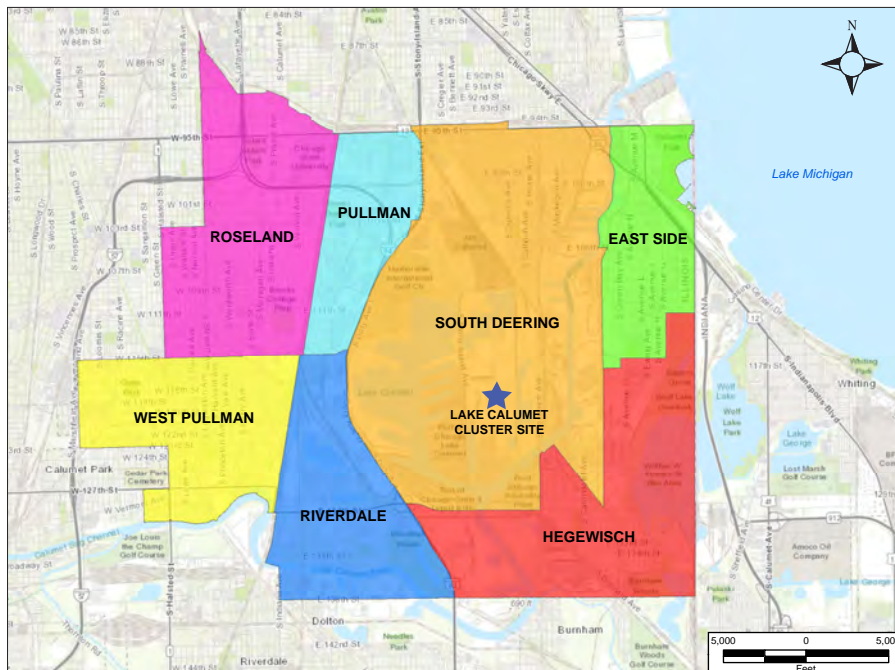
The following page presents the status of the activities above.

## Community Involvement Efforts

The graphic below shows the types of community involvement activities U.S. EPA organizes at a site and how they follow along with the investigation and cleanup process.

Activity	Status
Establish and maintain a point of contact: Cheryl Allen	Completed
Establish a toll-free number for residents to ask questions and receive information: 800-621-8431	Completed
Maintain communication with local officials, agencies and community residents	Ongoing
Share information on the Internet: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster">http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster</a>	Ongoing
Create, update and maintain the site mailing list	Ongoing
Prepare and distribute fact sheets and site updates	Ongoing
Establish and maintain site-specific information repositories	Completed/Ongoing
Establish and maintain a site-specific administrative record	Completed/Ongoing
Conduct public meetings, hearings and information sessions	As needed/Ongoing
Participate in local events	As appropriate
Prepare site videos	As appropriate
Provide additional tools for communities as needed	As needed/Ongoing
Write and distribute news releases and public notices	Ongoing
Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and make adjustments as warranted	As needed

**Provides a brief summary of the composition and history of the South Deering, Hegewisch, Riverdale, West Pullman, Roseland, Pullman and East Side Neighborhoods in Chicago.**



*Map of the neighborhoods surrounding the Lake Calumet Cluster site.*

## Community Profile

The city of Chicago, located in Cook County, Illinois, is divided into 77 official community areas, or neighborhoods. While the site is located in the South Deering neighborhood of Chicago, other neighborhoods surrounding the site could potentially be affected by the contamination or the investigation and cleanup activities at the site. More importantly, U.S. EPA believes the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods may be interested in the site as they may use Big Marsh or Indian Creek Marsh for recreational activities. Big Creek and Indian Marsh are located close to the site. Therefore, U.S. EPA's outreach activities will include all these neighborhoods. The descriptions of the following neighborhoods begins with European immigration and industrial development periods.

## Governmental structure

The city of Chicago has a mayor council form of government. The City Council is made up of 50 aldermen/women, one representing each of Chicago's 50 wards. The mayor and aldermen/women are elected and serve four-year terms.



## PRE-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

More than a century ago, the Calumet region was the largest wetland in the Great Lakes area, but by the 1900s it became the heart of heavy industry for the upper Midwest. From about 1900 to the 1970s, nearby industries deposited slag and other wastes that raised the ground surface at the Lake Calumet Cluster site to an elevation just above the water table. From 1940 to 1992, much of the area was used for unpermitted waste disposal. The contaminated runoff in the area impacts wetland soils and area hydrology.

Currently, a combination of natural, industrial and residential areas typifies the contrast found around Lake Calumet. Abundant wildlife (including many state and federally endangered species) live in remnants of a once-vast wet prairie system scattered among industrial facilities. Much of the wetland area that was not converted into active industrial land use was used for unpermitted municipal, industrial and chemical waste disposal. Today, remnant wetlands and other natural areas remain, but they are interspersed among active and abandoned industries, slag materials generated by nearby steel manufacturers and chemical waste disposal sites and landfills.

## South Deering Neighborhood

The Lake Calumet Cluster site is located in the Chicago neighborhood of South Deering, about 13 miles southeast of the Loop. The development of the area that is now known as the South Deering neighborhood was centered around the steel industry. In 1875, the Joseph H. Brown Iron & Steel Co. began operations in the area. The neighborhood, which was then settled by the steelworkers from the plant, was first called Irondale. In 1903 the area was renamed South Deering, after International Harvester executive John Deering. The first workers were Irish, Welsh and English. They were then followed by Swedes and Germans. However, after 1900, immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe, and after World War I, Mexicans began settling in the area. In 1902, International Harvester, bought Brown's steel mill to make steel for its agriculture machines. This was followed by Gold Medal Flour Co., Illinois Slag and Ballast Co. and the Federal Furnace Co., thus creating a boom in the local economy. As a result of the boom in the economy, people began launching movements to improve the area including the construction of Trumbull Park. The Trumbull Park Homes and the Manors were also developed in the 1930s and 40s.

In 1953, the first African American family moved into Trumbull Park homes. This set off a decade of racial unrest and protests by white residents in the neighborhood. While African Americans had been working at the mill, they did not live in South Deering. They were also employed in the least desired positions. Laws against discrimination in the workplace and in housing in the 1960s helped African Americans secure better positions and access to housing in the neighborhood.

In 1977, International Harvester sold the mill to a subsidiary of Envirodyne Industries. Because the local union had signed an agreement stating that Envirodyne did not have to pay workers any non-pension benefits, when the mill was closed in 1980, workers lost those benefits and allowed Envirodyne to avoid paying workers \$85 million. This had a profound economic impact on the neighborhood. Initially, people turned to the local churches and officials for help, but as the unemployment increased people founded new groups to fight for their lost benefits. People formed the United Neighborhood Organization and the Save Our Jobs Committee.



The Save Our Jobs Committee sued International Harvester for the benefits the workers lost and in 1988, International Harvester settled the suit, agreeing to pay \$14.8 million. This unfortunately was not enough to reverse the economic loss in South Deering. Hundreds of families left the neighborhood in search of jobs in the south and some returned to Mexico to retire.

Today South Deering is still recovering, but there are positive things happening in the neighborhood. In 2016, the Chicago Park District opened Big Marsh, a 280-acre park on the Eastern shore of Lake Calumet in South Deering. The land was once a dumping ground for surrounding industry, but now the park offers walking and biking trails; BMX bike courses; and picnic and areas. In 2020, the Ford Calumet Environmental Center opened in the park. According to the park district, the mission of the center is:

**“To create a gateway and center point that knits together the Calumet region to serve local communities, draw in regional visitors and celebrate the region’s environmental, cultural and recreational assets.”**



*Boxcar mural in Big Marsh.*



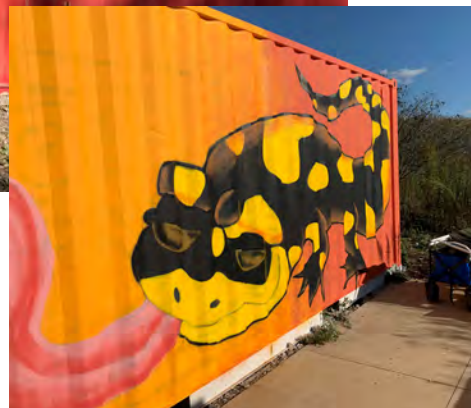
*Bike park plaza in Big Marsh.*



*Bike pump track in Big Marsh.*



*Boxcar murals in Big Marsh.*







*Big Marsh park information sign.*



*Wooden ramp on the BMX jump line in Big Marsh.*

<https://www.chipublib.org/fa-calumet-region-community-collection/>

<https://www.csu.edu/cerc/researchreports/documents/ChicagoSESideIndustrialHistory.pdf>

<https://bigmarsh.org/history/>

## **WARD REPRESENTATIVES**

South Deering is part of Chicago's 7th and 10th Wards. Greg Mitchell is the alderman for the 7th ward and Susan Sadlowski is the alderwoman for the 10th ward.

### **Greg Mitchell, 7th Ward Alderman**

2249 E 95th St.

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773-731-7777

[alderman@gregmitchell7thward.org](mailto:alderman@gregmitchell7thward.org)

### **Susan Sadlowski Garza, 10th Ward Alderwoman**

10500 S Ewing Ave., 1st Floor

Chicago, IL 60617

773-768-8138

[Ward10@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward10@cityofchicago.org)

## Riverdale Neighborhood

The Riverdale neighborhood is located southwest of the Lake Calumet Cluster site. It is primarily an industrial area with the railroads also occupying significant portions of land. Riverdale was home to Pullman Farm and Pullman brickyards. The largest industry in the neighborhood, the Calumet Paint Co., began in an abandoned church. The company was purchased by Sherwin Williams in 1888 and by the 1900s, the plant was one of the largest paint factories in the U.S. The Sherwin Williams facility as well as at other Riverdale businesses such as Chicago Drop Forge, the Illinois Terra Cotta Works and the Swift and Knickerbocker Ice plants provided many jobs to people living both in and outside the neighborhood. Up until the end of World War II, more people worked in Riverdale than lived there.

In 1945, the National Housing Agency, the Federal Public Housing Authority and the Chicago Housing Authority opened the Altgeld Gardens Housing Project. In 1954, CHA built the Phillip Murray Homes. By the 1960s, the neighborhood had transformed from an industrial area with a population of 1,500 to a residential one with 12,000 residents. This stressed the neighborhood services. In addition, nearby white communities did not want to share their services with the predominantly African American Riverdale community. Discrimination at hospitals in nearby communities made it difficult for the African American residents of Riverdale to get healthcare. And, battlelines were drawn over school district boundaries, which would have had white children sent to predominantly black schools and black

children to predominantly white schools. In 1970, Riverdale had its highest population (15,058) after the development of Eden's Greens. Eden's Greens is one of the country's first majority black-owned and operated townhouse and apartment developments. However, population and jobs have declined over the decades since then and according to the 2014 – 2018 American Community Survey of the United States Census Bureau, the population is down to 7,233 with 53% of the households having an income of less than \$15,000

Riverdale is also home to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's sewage treatment plant that services Riverdale and surrounding areas. The Beaubien Forest Preserve is in eastern Riverdale. The preserve has offers a place to fish, kayak, picnic and bird.

<https://www.chipublib.org/fa-calumet-region-community-collection/>

### WARD REPRESENTATIVE

Roseland is in Chicago's 9th Ward. Anthony Beale is the alderman for the 9th ward.

#### **Anthony Beale, 9th Ward Alderman**

34 East 112th Place

Chicago, Illinois 60628

773-785 - 1100

[Ward9@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward9@cityofchicago.org)



*Altgeld Gardens.*



*Altgeld Gardens Resource Center.*



# Pullman Neighborhood

The Pullman neighborhood of Chicago is famous for being a planned community. In the late 1870s, George Pullman, the inventor of the Pullman train sleeping car, purchased 4,000 acres near Lake Calumet to build his new factory and housing for the workers. He wanted to build a community where the workers would have decent housing and a healthy environment. He hoped that this would attract and keep workers satisfied to deter workers from striking. The community was much nicer than housing in other working-class areas. The homes were brick and the development included schools, parks, a library, a theater and educational programs. Many people considered it a success, but not all. One reviewed, Richard Ely of the *Atlantic Monthly* said he thought the design was “un-American” and “took away men’s rights as citizens, including the right to control their own domestic environment.” It is important to note that Pullman made a profit from the development. In 1894, Pullman workers went on strike. They were protesting reduced wages while rents remained the same. This brought national attention to the issue of the relationship between employer and employee and the rights of the working class. By the time the strike was over, most people sided with the workers. Then, in 1898, the Illinois State Supreme Court ordered the Pullman company to eliminate its investment in the residential properties.

Over the years the housing aged, people moved away, new people moved in and people found new employment opportunities outside of Pullman. None-the-less the residents still believed Pullman was a good place to live and work. The mostly Italian and Polish community held tight to their strong ties to each other and the neighborhood. However, in the 1920s and 30s, people outside the neighborhood the area began to see the area blighted with old housing and vacant industrial land. In 1960, consultants to the South End Chamber of Commerce recommended demolition of some of the neighborhood to allow for the expansion of industry. This suggestion invigorated the Pullman Civic Organization to fight the demolition and remove the blight. They also knew the history of the neighborhood would be an advantage in their fight. In 1971, Pullman was considered a National Historic Landmark and in 1973, the Historic Pullman Foundation was founded.

In 1981, the last railroad car was produced at the Pullman Car Works. In 1994, North Pullman, a mostly



*Pullman National Monument  
Administration-Clock Tower Building.*

African American area of Pullman, received city landmark status and in 1995, the National A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum was established honoring the Pullman porters and Philip Randolph Pullman, co-founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Pullman porters were African American men who worked as porters on the sleeping cars on the railroad.

Today, the neighborhood of Pullman gets thousands of visitors yearly. People come to see the historic architecture, the National A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, the National Park Services’ Pullman National Monument, which was established in 2015 by President Barak Obama, and area restaurants.

<https://www.chipublib.org/fa-calumet-region-community-collection/>

<https://aprpullmanportermuseum.org/about-museum/>

## WARD REPRESENTATIVE

Pullman is in Chicago’s 8th Ward. Michelle Harris is the alderman for the 8th ward.

### **Michelle Harris, 8th Ward Alderwoman**

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## West Pullman Neighborhood

West Pullman was established in 1891 as a residential and industrial area by the West Pullman Land Association. The area was comprised of working-class residents that worked in the communities' industries. To entice wealthier residents, the West Pullman Land Association imposed building restrictions on the most desired properties. The current day neighborhood of West Pullman was created when, in the 1920s, a group of sociologists from the University of Chicago merged the town of Kensington and the village of Gano into West Pullman. Gano residents included Pullman workers that moved there to purchase their own home and escape the company control in Pullman. By that time, the population of West Pullman was over 20,000. The neighborhood had its own stores, schools, parks as well as a lot of industries. The ethnic makeup of the community included Germans, Scandinavians, Italians, Poles, Hungarians, Lithuanians and Armenians. Each ethnic group added to the fabric of the community by establishing its own churches, organizations, retail stores. Wealthier residents lived in the larger homes in an area called Stewart Ridge. The poorer residents lived in the older homes. Developers of the larger homes restricted African Americans from purchasing homes in their developments, thereby helping to keep the residents of the community white. The employers also helped in that effort. International Harvester did not hire African American workers at its West Pullman plant until the company was legally required to during World War II. When an African American woman purchased a property in West Pullman in 1933, area residents angry about the purchase set off a bomb containing black powder at the home. West Pullman residents also helped in the fight against the building of the Altgeld Gardens in Riverdale as well as projects in built in Roseland.

The population of West Pullman declined during the depression but rebounded after World War II. People found the area conveniently located to transportation to the Loop and the area industries. In 1960, West Pullman had an entirely white population of over 35,000 people. In the 1960s, African Americans began to be allowed to purchase land just west of West Pullman. This eventually led to African Americans being able to purchase homes in West Pullman. And, by 1980, 90% of the 45,000 residents of West Pullman were African American. Unemployment in the 1980s then took a toll on the community. The factories closed leaving contamination behind, which impacted the health of the residents. Part of the industrial area is now a U.S. EPA brownfields site.

Today, community organizations have teamed up with private investors and the local and federal government to clean up the contamination.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1340.html>

### WARD REPRESENTATIVES

West Pullman is part of Chicago's 9th and 34th Wards. Anthony Beale is the alderman for the 9th ward and Carrie Austin is the alderwoman for the 34th ward.

#### **Anthony Beale, 9th Ward Alderman**

34 E. 112th Place  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-785-1100  
[Ward9@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward9@cityofchicago.org)

#### **Carrie Austin, 34th Ward Alderwoman**

507 W. 111th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
<https://www.34thward.org/>



## Roseland Neighborhood

The neighborhood of Roseland by a group of Dutch families. They originally called the area High Prairie. Small truck farms in the neighborhood flourished and the population grew. In 1873, the name was changed to Roseland due to the beautiful flowers. In 1890, the Calumet and Chicago Canal and Dock Co. sold over four thousand acres of land to the Pullman Land Association for use by the Pullman Car Works. The workers from Pullman bought and rented homes from the Dutch owners in Roseland and the area grew more diverse. The unrest created by the practices of the area industries radicalized the area politics. Two times the people elected a socialist alderman before World War I. To fight the radicalization, local realtors advanced an idea of the area being peaceful and beautiful and by the 1920s, realtors were also using the “whiteness” of the area to sell homes. Ironically, the area had once been a stop on the Underground railroad. The realtors went so far as to pressure homeowners and developers to put restrictions on who could purchase homes. The South End Businessmen’s Association even unsuccessfully tried to change the boundaries of the neighborhood to exclude the African American community. This further strained relations between the races. Throughout the 1920s and 30s the strained relations continued. The Depression and Prohibition then caused a complete collapse of the area economy. Many in the community argued about the fate and direction of the neighborhood. The economy recovered during World War II, but the direction of the community remained in question. In 1944, a real estate developer named Donald O’Toole built a subdivision for the African American community. This angered many residents who fought against its development. They also fought against the housing of African American veterans in the veteran housing in the Fernwood area of Roseland. The fight in Fernwood became violent and lasted three days in what has been called one of the “worst race riots in Chicago history.”

The area saw an increase in the population in the 1950s and 60s. However, in the 1960s the economy declined again. Unemployment rose and people moved to the suburbs for jobs. Residents who did not like the integration of the neighborhood also left. From 1965 to 1975 the racial makeup of the neighborhood changed dramatically and by 1990, the formerly predominantly white neighborhood had become



*Roseland neighborhood photos.*

98.9 percent African American. Unemployment in the neighborhood continued through the 1970s and 80s and the support mechanisms of the past were now gone. The neighborhood is still struggling to recover economically. However, many community organizations are working hard to ensure its economic future.

<https://www.chipublib.org/fa-calumet-region-community-collection/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roseland,\\_Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roseland,_Chicago)

### WARD REPRESENTATIVES

Roseland is part of Chicago's 9th and 34th Wards. Anthony Beale is the alderman for the 9th ward and Carrie Austin is the alderwoman for the 34th ward.

#### **Anthony Beale, 9th Ward Alderman**

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#### **Carrie Austin, 34th Ward Alderwoman**

<https://www.34thward.org/>

## East Side Neighborhood

The proximity of the East Side neighborhood to the natural port and railroads made it an ideal location for industry. The development in the area began in the 1870s first with immigrants from Germany and Sweden followed by people from Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Italy. The division between the various groups began almost immediately, a trend that continued for many years as each new immigrant group arrived. After World War I, the immigration slowed and an organized process of “Americanizing” immigrants, which taught newcomers how to assimilate, helped ease the tension between the various groups. However, this division resurfaced when African American families tried to move into the area after World War II. This caused violent race riots, at least one of which happened in Calumet Park. From 1980 to 2000, the population of the East Side neighborhood became predominantly Hispanic.

By the 1920s, the area became known for its iron and steel production, which had created many jobs and was the backbone of the neighborhood economy. So, when the steel industry declined in beginning in the 1970s due to competition from foreign markets, it dramatically affected the neighborhood. Unemployment impacted all sectors of the economy. The population declined dramatically between 1970 and 1980. And, although the city of Chicago tried to revitalize the neighborhood, it was not successful. To this day, the neighborhood still struggles to regain its former economic strength. Today, East Side remains a working-class neighborhood.

In addition to the advantages for industry of being along the water, being on the lake created for other amenities. Originally envisioned in 1904, the building of Calumet Park was completed in the early 1930s along lake Michigan. The nearly 200-acre park provided opportunities for swimming, other recreational activities and entertainment for area residents.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/406.html>

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/calumet-park>

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/46.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_Side,\\_Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Side,_Chicago)

## WARD REPRESENTATIVE

East Side is part of Chicago's 10th Ward and Susan Sadlowski Garza is the 10th Ward Alderwoman.

**Susan Sadlowski Garza,  
10th Ward Alderwoman**

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## Hegewisch Neighborhood

The area that is now known as the Hegewisch neighborhood of Chicago was settled by European immigrants in the 1850s. They came to help build the railroads. In 1883, the president of the U.S. Rolling Stock Co., Adolph Hegewisch, settled in the Hegewisch area and proposed to build a company town similar to what George Pullman had done for his railroad car company. The goal of USRS Co. was to build railroad cars. Hegewisch purchased 100 acres of land in the area of 135th and Brandon Streets and planned to use it as a rail yard. Investors purchased an additional 1,500 acres of land north of the company site for worker housing. A small business center was created around what is now 133rd Street and Baltimore Avenue and still exists today. Hegewisch also planned to build two canals; one to shorten the Calumet River and one to connect Wolf Lake with Lake Michigan. He hoped that would entice other factory owners to establish themselves there. His plans never materialized though, due to a lack in money. A few years after, Adolph Hegewisch passed away and his company was sold to the Pressed Steel Car Co.

In the early 1900s, the Hegewisch area was home to a several steel mills, attracting Polish, Yugoslavian, Czechoslovakian, Swedish and Irish immigrants to the area for work. In 1935, to obtain better working conditions, pay and hours, the steel workers formed a union called the Steel Workers Organization Committee, or SWOC. In 1937, Carnegie-Illinois Steel Co., a subsidiary of U.S. Steel located in Hegewisch, ratified the union and workers received vacation time, better pay and fewer working hours. Smaller steel companies did not follow along, which led to the union's decision to call a strike against those smaller companies. On Memorial Day, 1937, steel workers tried to march on Republic Steel and were shot at by



off-duty Chicago police officers. Ten workers died and hundreds were injured as a result. This is now known as the “Memorial Day Massacre.” The incident temporarily broke the union. However, in the 1940s, the union re-emerged as the United Steelworkers of America.

The steel mills remained a major industry in Hegewisch until its decline beginning in the 1970s. In 1980, Wisconsin Steel closed their South Deering mill, which caused a sharp increase in unemployment in the area. The unemployment caused the population of Hegewisch to decline.

Many of the residents that stayed in Hegewisch became very active in shaping the future of the neighborhood. They successfully fought the building of a proposed Lake Calumet airport. They also fought against area landfills. In the 1980s, they also successfully lobbied for a new Metra stop, a Chicago Public Library branch and an infrastructure grant. Some of these same people remain active in the community today.

Hegewisch neighborhood is comprised of three distinct areas -- Arizona, Avalon Trails and Old Hegewisch. Old Hegewisch, considered the oldest part of the neighborhood, makes up the area North of 138th Street, South of 130th Street, East of Torrence Avenue and West of Avenue O. It was the area where Adolph Hegewisch originally settled. Arizona makes up the area East of Avenue O and North of 138th Street. It is also commonly referred to as “the Avenues” and got that name from the city’s street-naming convention of alphabetically naming streets. The Arizona area received its name because the original land soil has a sandy texture and native cactus are present in the area. The third area, Avalon Trails, is comprised of the areas North of 130th Street, East of Torrence Avenue and West of Baltimore Avenue. It is the newest of the three areas, built in the 1960s. It is built on wetland area where original Hegewisch inhabitants hunted fish and small animals.

Today Hegewisch retains a small-town atmosphere, but with all the conveniences of a metropolitan area. It has affordable housing and comparatively lower property taxes and crime rate.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/577.html>

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/labor-history-articles/memorial-day-massacre>

[https://www.hegewisch.net/short\\_history.html](https://www.hegewisch.net/short_history.html)

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/810.html>



*Plaque at 117th Street and Avenue O remembering the workers that died in the Memorial Day Massacre in 1937.*



*Hegewisch neighborhood photos.*

## WARD REPRESENTATIVE

Hegewisch is part of Chicago’s 10th Ward and Susan Sadlowski Garza is the 10th Ward Alderwoman.

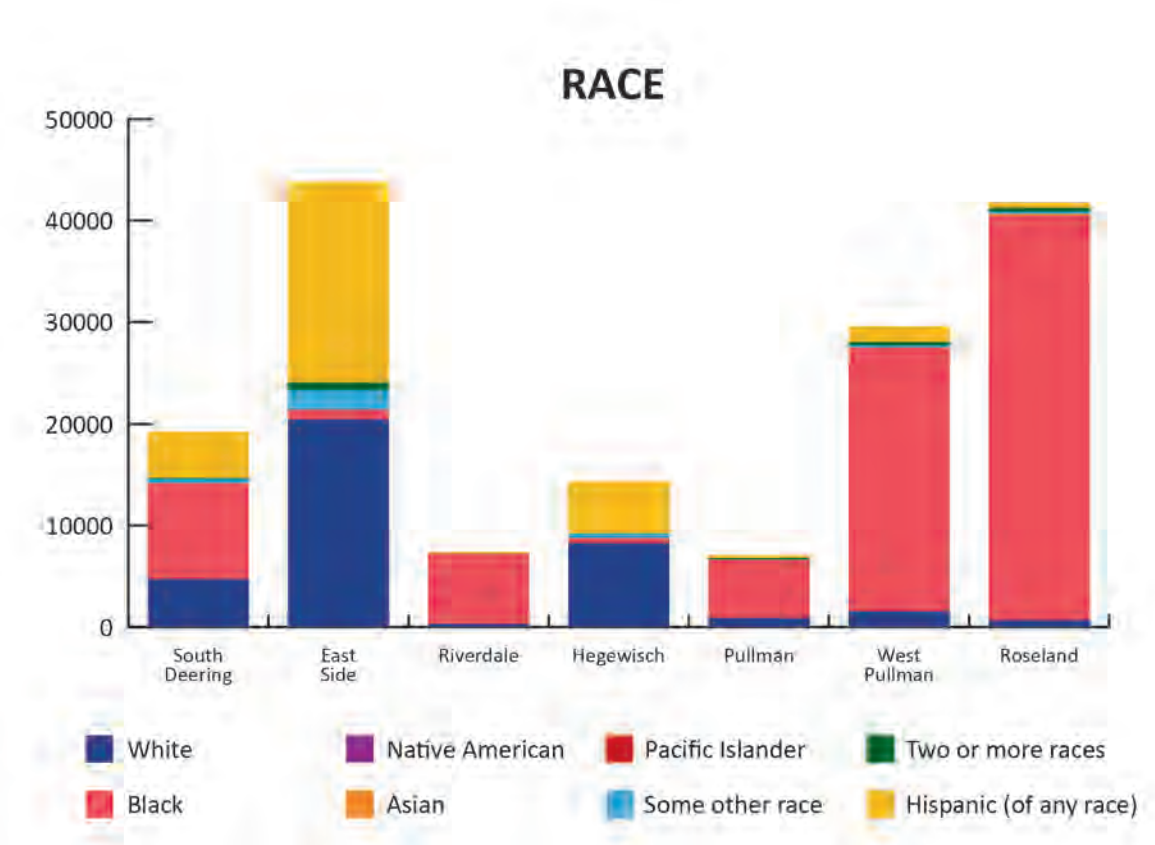
### **Susan Sadlowski Garza, 10th Ward Alderwoman**

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[Ward10@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward10@cityofchicago.org)

# Demographics

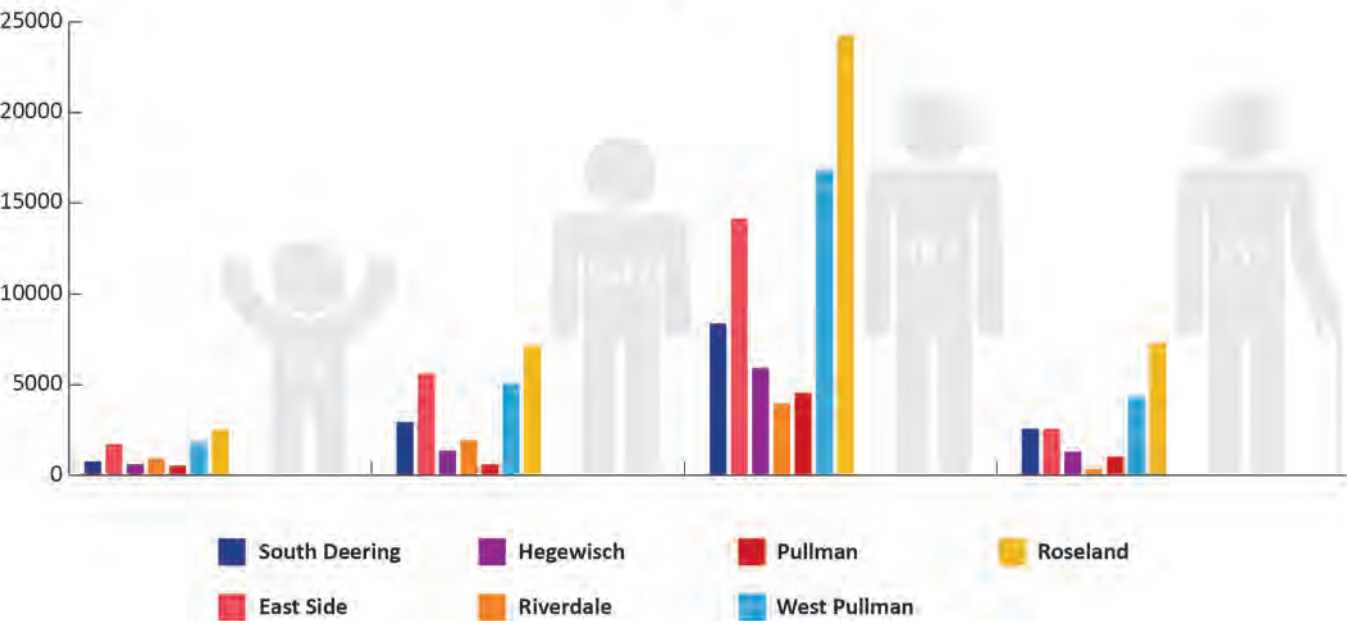
The following demographic information was obtained using a U.S. EPA selection tool called the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. This tool, also called EJSCREEN, provides users with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. Information in the tool came from the from the 2014-2018 U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for the East Deering, Riverdale, Pullman, West Pullman Roseland,

East Side and Hegewisch Neighborhoods. The graphics below and on the following pages provide information for the community affected by the Lake Calumet Cluster site. Note: Because the U.S. Census does not break down its information by neighborhood, the boundaries for each neighborhood had to be hand drawn using the screening tool. The following statistics were pulled using the boundaries shown in the map on Page 16. Therefore, the statistics are not only considered estimates because they are estimated by the U.S. Census, but also due to any potential slight variations in drawing the boundaries.

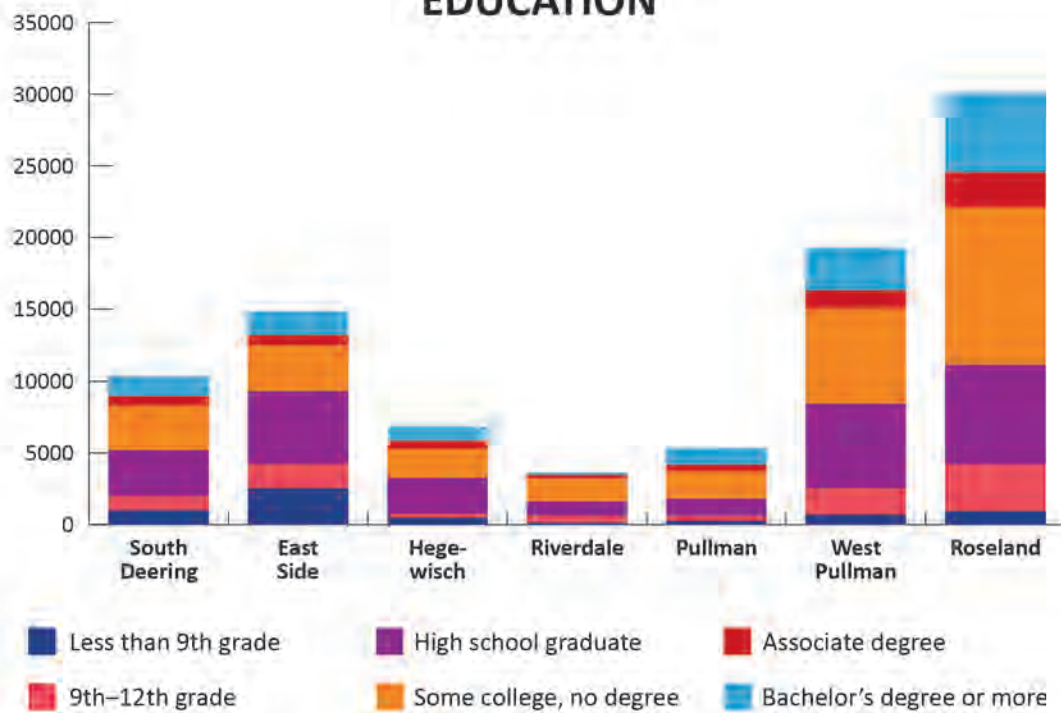




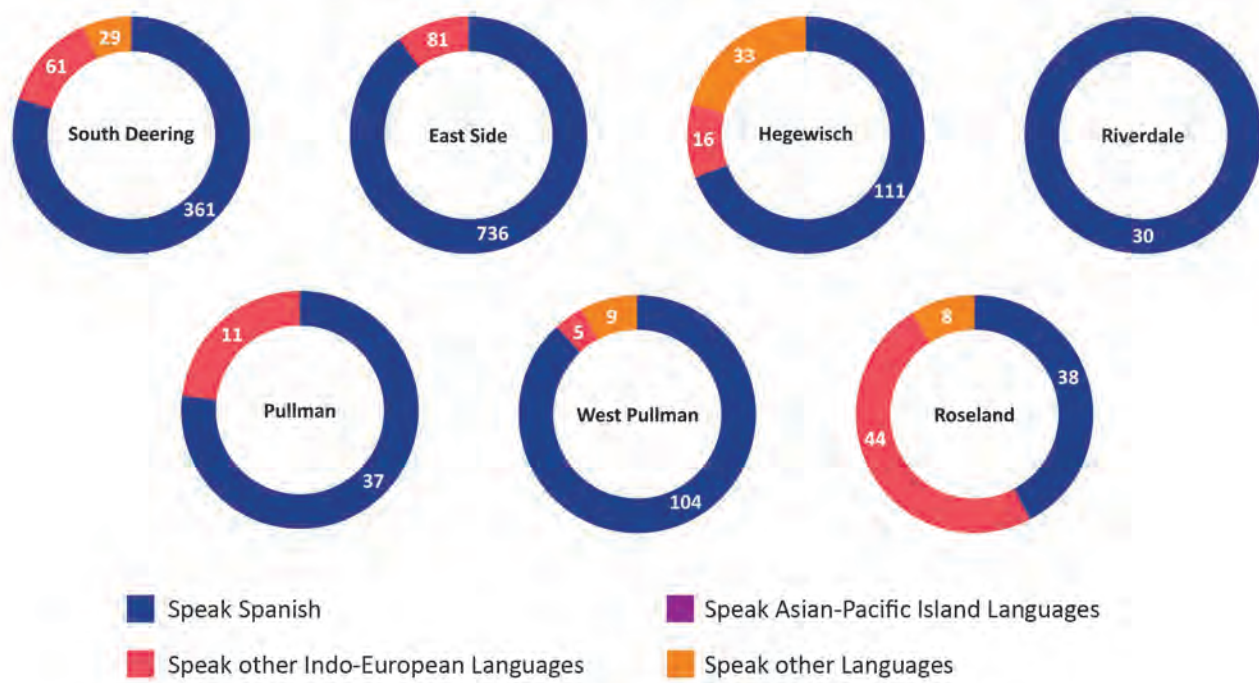
AGE



EDUCATION

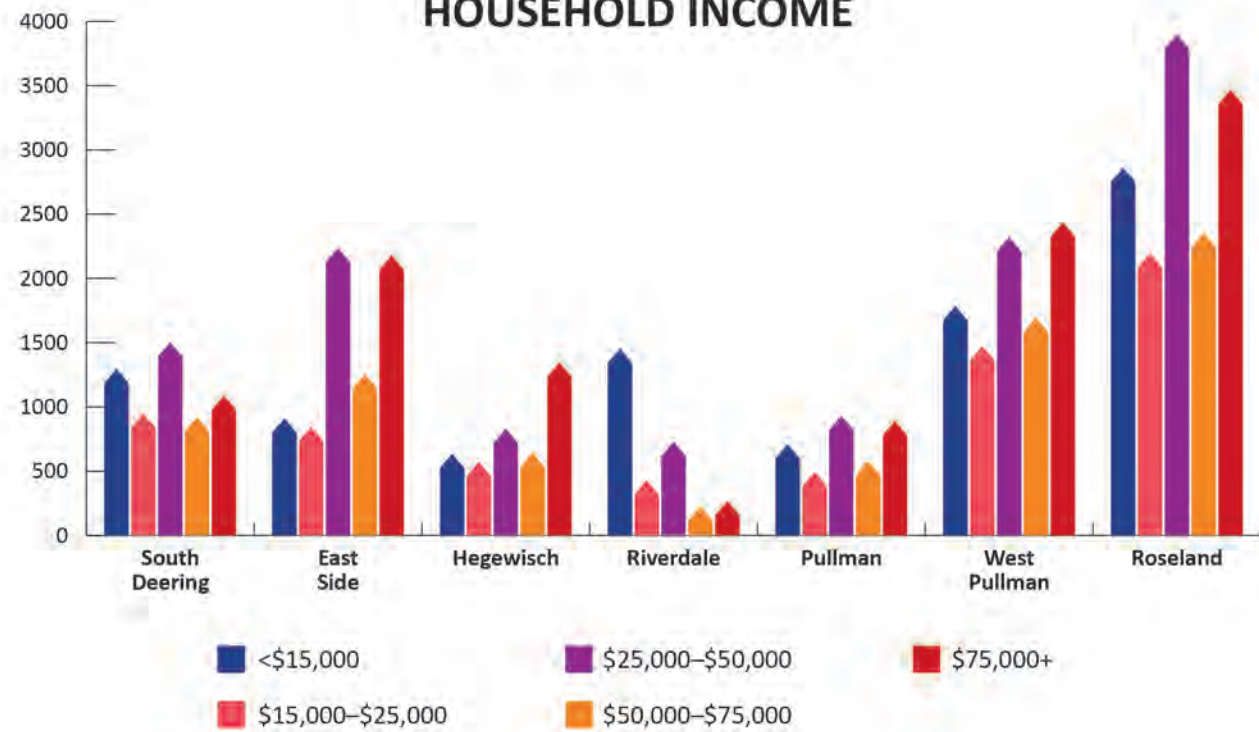


LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS\*

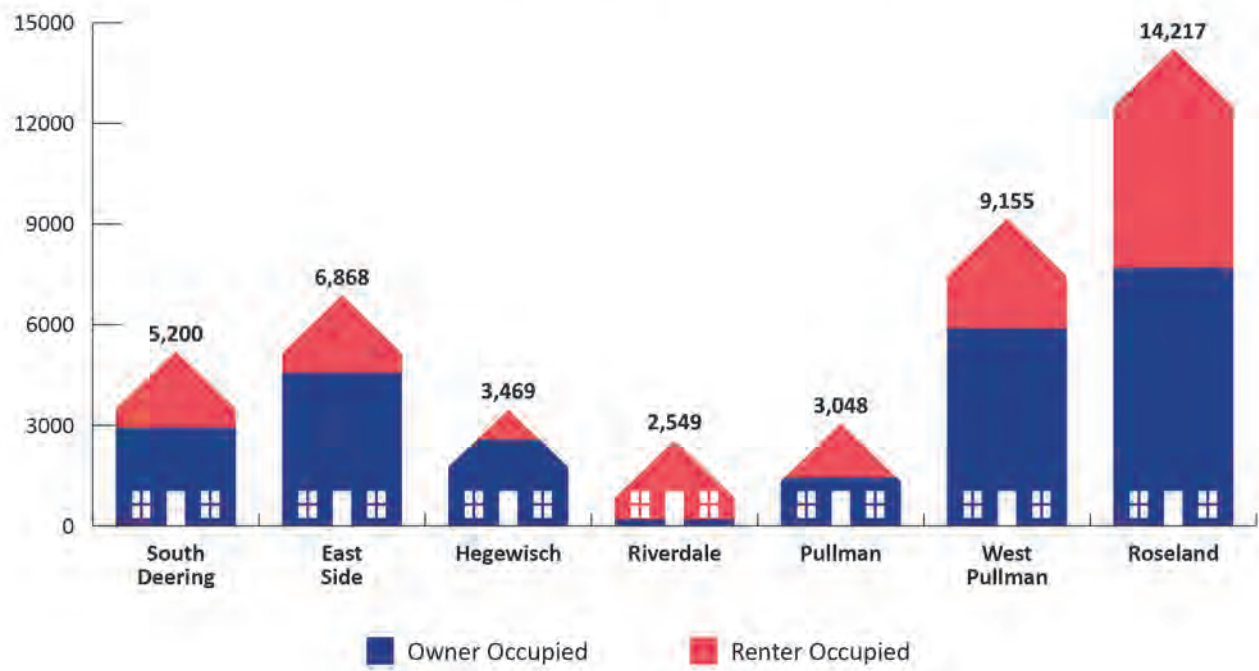


\*households in which no one 14 and over speaks English “very well” or speaks English only

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



# OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS



Provides a brief  
summary of the Lake  
Calumet Cluster site.

# THE SITE

U.S. EPA is overseeing investigation and cleanup activities at the Lake Calumet Cluster Superfund site. The 87-acre site in southeast Chicago is made up of four separate parcels including U.S. Drum, Alburn Incinerator, a portion of the Paxton Lagoons, and an unnamed parcel. The site is bordered by Land & Lakes Landfill to the west; Paxton I & II Landfills to the north; 122nd Street to the south; and Norfolk Southern Railroad ROW and Indian Ridge Marsh to the east. (See map on Page 32.)

The area was originally wetlands that were filled with **slag**, dredge spoils, demolition debris and other waste material from nearby steel mills and industries from the 1900s through the 1970s. From the 1940s to 1992, the area was used for unpermitted municipal, industrial, and chemical waste disposal. In 1998, Illinois EPA began investigating the site, which led to a decision in 2006 to install a cap, or cover, over a portion of the site to prevent direct contact and the potential for landfill contaminants to become airborne. Installation of the cap began in 2007, but construction stopped in 2008 due to the lack of funding. Today, the cap remains partially constructed.

In 2008, U.S. EPA took over the investigation at the site. In 2010, the site was placed on the **National Priorities List**, or **NPL**. The NPL is a list of the nation's Superfund sites.

Facility operations contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater with **volatile organic compounds**, or **VOCs**, **semi-volatile organic compounds**, or **SVOCs**, **polychlorinated biphenyls**, or **PCBs**, and **metals**. The site's **groundwater** has been investigated and the remedy for its cleanup is being developed. Remaining activities for completion of the landfill cap construction will be coordinated with the groundwater remedy. Once the groundwater cleanup remedy is selected, the **potentially responsible parties**, known as **PRPs**, will meet with U.S. EPA to discuss completing the landfill cap construction to meet certain specifications for hazardous waste landfills.



## Lake Calumet Cluster Site



Lake Calumet Cluster site boundary in yellow.

## What Has Been Done to Clean Up the Site?

In 2013, the PRPs, signed a legal agreement to perform an investigation into the groundwater at the site and study ways to clean up the groundwater. This is called a **remedial investigation and feasibility study**, or **RI/FS**. U.S. EPA approved the PRP's RI/FS Work Plan, Field Sampling Plan, and Quality Assurance Project Plan in September 2015.

Groundwater investigations were conducted in three separate phases between 2015-2017. During Phase 1 of the investigation, a total of 19 piezometers – instruments that measure the pressure or depth of ground water - were installed across the site and monthly water level measurements were collected for one year to determine groundwater flow direction. During the second phase, 26 soil borings were installed, and groundwater samples were collected from these locations to identify and sample the zones of highest permeability at locations around the perimeter of the site. The data collected from these first two phases were then used to determine the locations for groundwater monitoring wells. During Phase 3, 52 groundwater samples were collected from 13 monitoring wells around the site. In addition, the PRPs conducted two rounds of surface water sampling from 20 locations within the Indian Ridge Marsh.

## What Is the current site status?

The results from the investigation will be available in the final investigation report, called the Remedial Investigation Report, expected to be completed in spring/summer 2022. Once the RI is completed, the PRPs will evaluate potential cleanup options in a report called the Feasibility Study Report. The final FS report is expected to be completed in fall 2022/early winter 2023.

Once the RI/FS is completed, U.S. EPA will then determine the best all-around cleanup option from the FS and issue a document called a **record of decision**, or **ROD**, which describes the steps to be taken to clean up the site. The ROD is tentatively scheduled for fall 2023.



## Appendix A

### GLOSSARY – INITIALS – ACRONYMS

**Administrative Record.** The body of documents that forms the basis for the selection of a particular response at a site. For example, the Administrative Record for remedy selection includes all documents that were considered or relied upon to select the remedy through the record of decision.

**CERCLA.** See Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

**CIC.** See Community Involvement Coordinator.

**CIP.** See Community Involvement Plan.

**Cleanup.** Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms “remedial action,” “remediation,” “removal action,” “response action,” or “corrective action.”

**Community Engagement.** The process of involving communities in all phases of the cleanup process. Communities are asked to provide input on how the cleanup will be conducted and how it may affect community plans and goals. See also Community Involvement.

**Community Involvement.** The term used by U.S. EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund site. U.S. EPA’s community involvement approach is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the Agency’s activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.

**Community Involvement Coordinator.** The U.S. EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

**Community Involvement Plan.** A plan that outlines specific community involvement activities that occur during the investigation and cleanup at the site. The CIP outlines how U.S. EPA will keep the public informed of work at the site and the ways in which residents can review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the site. The document is available in the site's information repository maintained by U.S. EPA. The CIP may be modified as necessary to respond to changes in community concerns, information needs and activities.

### **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability**

**Act.** A federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect people's health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste site. Under the program, U.S. EPA can either:

- Pay for site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to do the work; or
- Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the federal government for the cost of the cleanup.

**Consent Decree.** A legal document that formalizes an agreement reached between U.S. EPA and parties considered potentially responsible for contamination, called PRPs, where PRPs will perform all or part of a Superfund site cleanup. The consent decree describes actions that PRPs are required to perform, the costs incurred by the government that the PRPs will reimburse, as well as the roles, responsibilities and enforcement options that the government may exercise in the event of noncompliance by the PRPs. A consent decree is subject to a public comment period.

**Contaminant(s).** Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water or soil.

**Contamination.** Introduction into water, air and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings and various household use products.

**EJ.** See Environmental Justice.

**Emergency Response Action.** If a site poses an immediate threat to the community's health or the environment, the U.S. EPA under the authority of CERCLA will step in to stop the threat. Emergency response actions can sometimes be expanded to eliminate the need for later long-term action.

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

**Feasibility Study.** The feasibility study is an analysis of the practicality of a proposal and evaluates alternatives and costs for their effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment.

**FS.** See Feasibility Study.

**Groundwater.** Underground supplies of drinking water

**Hazardous Substance(s).** Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive or chemically reactive. Any substance designated by U.S. EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

**Hazardous Waste.** Byproducts that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Hazardous wastes usually possess at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity) or appear on special U.S. EPA lists.

**Information Repository.** A file containing current information, technical reports and reference documents regarding a site. The information repository usually is located in a public building convenient for local residents such as a public school, town hall or library.

**Metals.** Metals include elements with a metallic luster and are found on and beneath the earth's surface, such as manganese, lead, cadmium and chromium.



**National Priorities List.** U.S. EPA's list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste site identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. U.S. EPA is required to update the National Priorities List at least once a year.

**NPL.** See National Priorities List.

**PCBs.** See Polychlorinated biphenyls.

**Polychlorinated biphenyls.** Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds known as congeners. There are no known natural sources of PCBs, although some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air. PCBs are either oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow and have no known smell or taste. Many commercial PCB mixtures are known in the U.S. by the trade name "Aroclor". PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors and other electrical equipment because they do not easily burn and are good insulators. The manufacturing of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence of buildup in the environment which may cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices with PCB capacitors as well as old microscope and hydraulic oils. The most commonly observed health effects in people exposed to large amounts of PCBs are skin conditions such as acne and rashes. Studies in exposed workers have shown changes in blood and urine that may also indicate liver damage. EPA classifies PCBs as probable cancer-causing agents. More information on PCBs can be found in a fact sheet in Appendix E and online.

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts17.pdf>

**Potentially Responsible Parties.** Any individual or company (including owners, operators, transporters or generators that has been identified as being potentially responsible for or contributing to a spill or other potential contamination at a Superfund site. Whenever possible, through administrative and legal action, EPA requires PRPs to clean up hazardous sites that have been contaminated.

**Proposed Plan.** A plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

**Public Comment Period(s).** A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various U.S. EPA documents or actions.

**Public Meeting(s).** Formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts. Formal public meetings are required only for the proposed plan and Record of Decision amendments.

**PRPs.** See Potentially Responsible Parties.

**Record of Decision.** A ROD is a legal, technical and public document that explains which cleanup alternative will be used at a Superfund NPL site. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation and feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

**Remedial Investigation.** The remedial investigation is a study designed to collect the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site.

**Remedial Project Manager.** The EPA or state official responsible for overseeing on-site remedial action.

**RI.** See Remedial Investigation.

**ROD.** See Record of Decision.

**RPM.** See Remedial Project Manager.

**SARA.** See Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

**Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds.** SVOCs are chemicals which have a tendency to volatilize, or evaporate, at temperatures higher than volatile organic compounds. Examples of SVOCs are phenols and phthalates. Because of the tendency to evaporate when exposed to air, SVOCs disappear more rapidly from surface water than from groundwater. Since groundwater does not come into contact with air, SVOCs are not easily released and can remain in groundwater that is being used for drinking water, posing a threat to human health. Some SVOCs are believed to cause cancer in humans.

**Slag.** A stony waste matter separated from metals by withdrawing or purifying the ore.

**Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.** Modifications to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, enacted on October 17, 1986.

**SVOCs.** See Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds.

**Superfund.** The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out U.S. EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating site for inclusion on the list, determining their priority and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

**TAG.** See Technical Assistance Grant.

**TASC.** See Technical Assistance Services for Communities.

**Technical Assistance Grant.** This grant provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites.

**Technical Assistance Services for Communities.** This program supplies communities with technical help so they can better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions.

**VOCs:** See Volatile Organic Compounds.

**Volatile Organic Compounds.** A type of organic compound that tends to change from a liquid to a gas at low temperatures when exposed to air. As a result of this tendency, VOCs disappear more rapidly from surface water than from groundwater. Since groundwater does not come into contact with air, VOCs are not easily released and can be remain in groundwater that is being used for drinking water, posing a threat to human health. Some VOCs are believed to cause cancer in humans.

## Appendix B

Information Repositories, Administrative Record,  
Websites and Meeting Locations

### LOCAL INFORMATION REPOSITORIES



#### Hegewisch Branch, Chicago Public Library

3048 E. 130th St.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
312-747-0046

Library hours may be different than posted  
due to COVID-19.

##### Regular Library Hours

Monday	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	1:00 pm. – 5 p.m.

**Email:** [Hegewisch@chipublib.org](mailto:Hegewisch@chipublib.org)

#### Harold Washington Library Center

Government Documents, 5th Floor  
400 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60605  
312-747-4500

Library hours may be different than posted  
due to COVID-19.

##### Regular Library Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Email:** [info@chipublib.org](mailto:info@chipublib.org)

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION REPOSITORY

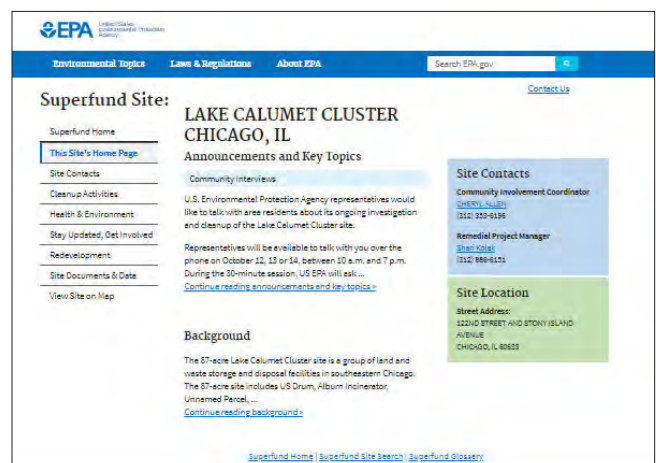
#### U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center

77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Room 711, 7th Floor  
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building  
Chicago, IL 60604

##### U.S. EPA Website

[www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster)

*\*The Administrative Record is available at the libraries,  
the Superfund Records Center and on the website.*



## POSSIBLE MEETING LOCATIONS

### South Deering

#### **Ford Calumet Environmental Center**

11555 S. Stony Island Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
312-590-5993

#### **Jeffrey Manor Public Library**

2401 E. 100th St.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
312-747-6479  
<https://www.chipublib.org/locations/39/>

#### **Trumbull Park Field House**

2400 E. 105th St.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
312-742-7529  
<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/trumbull-fieldhouse>

### Hegewisch

#### **George Washington High School**

3535 E. 114th St.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
773-535-5725  
<https://www.gwashingtonhs.org/>

#### **Hegewisch Branch, Chicago Public Library**

3048 E. 130th St.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
312-747-0046  
<https://www.chipublib.org/locations/35/>

#### **Henry Clay School**

13231 S. Burley Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-535-5600  
<http://clay.cps.edu/>

#### **Lebanon Lutheran Church**

13100 S. Manistee Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-1747  
<https://www.facebook.com/lebanonlutheranchicago/>



*Ford Calumet Environmental Center.*

#### **Mann Park Field House**

3035 E. 130th St.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-0265  
<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/mann-james-park>

#### **Southeast Sportsmans Club**

13139 S. Avenue M  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-9707

#### **St. Florian Catholic Church**

13145 S. Houston Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-1071  
<http://florian.hegewisch.net/>

#### **St. Francis de Sales**

10155 S. Ewing Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
773-731-7272  
<https://www.sfdshs.org/>

#### **UAW Local 551 Union Hall**

13550 S. Torrence Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-1472  
<https://www.facebook.com/uawlocal551/>



### **Virgil Grissom Elementary School**

12810 S. Escanaba Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-535-5380  
<http://grissom.cps.edu/>

## **East Side**

### **East Side Bible Church**

10524 S. Avenue N  
Chicago IL 60617  
773-731-4674  
<https://www.esbcchicago.net/>

### **East Side United Methodist Church**

11000 S. Ewing Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
773-721-4141  
<https://sites.google.com/view/eastsidechurchchicago/home>

### **Vodak-East Side Public Library**

3710 E. 106th St.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
312-747-5500  
<https://www.chipublib.org/locations/71/>

## **Pullman**

### **Far South Chicago Coalition**

#### **Imani Village Mission**

901 E. 95th St.  
Chicago, IL 60619  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Ffarsouthcc%2F>

### **Greenstone Church**

11211 S. St. Lawrence St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-928-7870  
<https://www.nps.gov/places/greenstone-church-greenstone-united-methodist-church.htm>

### **Historic Pullman Foundation**

614 E. 113th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-785-8901  
<https://www.pullmanil.org/>

### **Pullman Community Center**

10355 S. Woodlawn  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-928-1000  
<https://pccindoorsports.com/>

### **Pullman Public Library**

11001 S. Indiana Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
312-747-2033  
<https://www.chipublib.org/locations/59/>

## **Riverdale**

### **Chicago Public Library**

#### **Altgeld Resource Center**

955 E. 131st St.  
Chicago, IL 60827  
312-747-3270  
<https://www.chipublib.org/locations/4/>

## **Roseland**

### **Chicago State University**

9501 S. King Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
<https://www.csu.edu/campus/>

### **London Towne Community Building**

830 E. 100th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-928-4666  
<http://lthcoop.com/index.html>

## Appendix C

### List of Contacts

#### U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICIALS

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allen.cheryl@epa.gov

#### ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICIAL

**Nicole Wilson**

Remedial Project Manager  
Federal Sites Remediation Section, Bureau of Land  
Illinois EPA  
1021 N. Grand Ave. East  
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Springfield, IL 62794  
217-785-8729  
nicole.wilson@illinois.gov

#### FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Richard Durbin**

Senator  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-2152  
<https://www.durbin.senate.gov>

Chicago Office

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-353-4952

**Tammy Duckworth**

Senator  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-2854  
<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov>

Chicago Office

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-3506

**Robin Kelly**

U.S. Representative  
2416 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-0773  
<https://robinkelly.house.gov>

Chicago Office

1000 E. 111th St. Suite 5N  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-231-2001

## STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

### **J.B. Pritzker**

Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W Randolph St., 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-814-2121  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/>

### **Robert Peters (13th District)**

State Senator  
124 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-5338

District Office  
1304 E. 47th St., Suite 205  
Chicago, IL 60615  
708-730-4283

### **Emil Jones (14th District)**

State Senator  
108A Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-9573

District Office  
507 W. 111th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-995-7748

### **Napoleon Harris III (15th District)**

State Senator  
413 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-8066

District Office  
1350 E. Sibley Blvd., Suite 403  
Dolton, IL 60419  
708-893-0552

### **Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (District 17)**

State Senator  
627 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-3201  
[www.senatorelgiesims.com](http://www.senatorelgiesims.com)

### Chicago Office

8658 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Suite 404  
Chicago, IL 60619  
773-933-7715

### **Curtis J. Tarver, II (25th District)**

State Representative  
254-S Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-8121

### District Office

1303 E. 53rd St.  
Chicago, IL 60615  
773-363-8870  
<http://ilga.gov/house/Rep.asp?MemberID=2748>

### **Justin Slaughter (District 27)**

State Representative  
249-E Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-0010  
[justin@repslaughter.com](mailto:justin@repslaughter.com)

### District Office

1234 W. 95th St.  
Chicago, IL 60643  
773-445-9700

### **Robert Rita (District 28)**

State Representative  
267-S Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-558-1000

### District Office

2355 W. York St., Suite 1  
Blue Island, IL 60406  
708-396-2822

### **Thaddeus Jones (District 29)**

State Representative  
241-E Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-8087  
[repjones.jones@gmail.com](mailto:repjones.jones@gmail.com)

### District Office

15525 South Park Ave., Suite 104  
South Holland, IL 60473  
708-596-7053

**Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (District 33)**

State Representative  
268-S Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-8272  
www.repevans.com

District Office

8500 S. Stony Island Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
773-783-8492

**Nicholas Smith (District 34)**

State Representative  
288-S Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217-782-6476  
repsmith34@gmail.com

District Office

113 E. 95th St., Suite A  
Chicago, IL 60619  
773-783-8800

**CHICAGO OFFICIALS**

**Lori Lightfoot**

Mayor  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago City Hall 4th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312-744-5000 (or 311 within Chicago)

**Anna M. Valencia**

City Clerk  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
Room 107  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312-742-5375

**Anthony Beale**

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34 E. 112th Place  
Chicago, IL 60628  
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Ward09@cityofchicago.org

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alderman@gregmitchell7thward.org

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10th Ward Alderwoman  
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Ward10@cityofchicago.org

**Carrie Austin**

34th Ward Alderwoman  
<https://www.34thward.org/>

**Chicago Police 4th District**

**Robert A Rubio**

Commander  
2255 E. 103rd St.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
312-747-8205  
caps.004district@chicagopolice.org

**Chicago Police 5th District**

**Glenn White**

Commander  
727 E. 111th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
312-747-8210  
CAPS005District@chicagopolice.org

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 62**

34 E. 114th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 74**

10615 S. Ewing Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617



**Chicago Fire Department Engine 75**

11958 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60628

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 80**

12701 S. Doty Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 81**

10458 S. Hoxie Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 93**

330 W. 104th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 97**

13359 S. Burley Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-0612

**Chicago Fire Department Engine 104**

11641 S. Avenue O  
Chicago, IL 60633  
708-891-9865

**Alicia Tate-Nadeau**

Executive Director  
Office of Emergency Management and Communications  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
City Hall  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312-746-9111

**Dr. Allison Arwady, MD, MPH**

Commissioner  
Department of Public Health  
333 S. State St., Room 200  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-747-9884

## HEALTH AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease  
Registry Region 5**

77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Room 433, M/S 4J  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-0840  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r5.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r5.html)

**Illinois Department of Public Health**

122 S. Michigan Ave., 7th and 20th Floors  
Chicago, IL 60603  
312-814-2793  
69 W. Washington St., 35th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312-814-5278

**City of Chicago Department of Public Health**

333 S. State St., Suite 200  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 311 (within Chicago), 312-744-5000  
[www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html)

## NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

**Active Transportation Alliance**

35 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 1782  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-427-3325  
<https://activetrans.org/>

**Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza**

[www.facebook.com/ssadlowskigarza/](https://www.facebook.com/ssadlowskigarza/)

**Alliance of the Southeast**

9204 S. Commercial Ave., Suite 301  
Chicago, IL 60617  
773-221-8908  
[www.asechicago.org/](http://www.asechicago.org/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FAllianceOfTheSoutheast%2F>

**Audubon Great Lakes**

<https://gl.audubon.org/>

**Big Marsh Park**

11555 S. Stony Island Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617  
312-720-0940  
<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/big-marsh-park-park-no-564>  
<https://bigmarsh.org/>

**Block Club Chicago – Maxwell Evans**

<https://blockclubchicago.org/author/maxwell-evans/>

**Block Club Chicago - Roseland/Pullman**

<https://blockclubchicago.org/category/roseland-pullman/>

**Block Club Chicago - South Chicago/East Side**

<https://blockclubchicago.org/category/south-chicago-east-side/>

**Calumet Area Industrial Commission**

1000 E. 111th St., 7th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-928-6000  
<http://calumetareaindustrial.com/>

**Calumet Outdoors**

[www.facebook.com/calumetstewardshipinitiative/](http://www.facebook.com/calumetstewardshipinitiative/)

**Calumet Nature Exchange**

2400 New York Ave.  
Whiting, IN 46394  
219-933-7149  
312-220-0120  
<https://wolflakeinitiative.weebly.com/calumet-region.html>

**CAPS – Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy**

Public Safety Headquarters Building  
3510 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60653  
<https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works/>

**Chicago Audubon Society**

5801-C N. Pulaski  
Chicago, IL 60646  
773-539-6793  
[cas@chicagoaudubon.org](mailto:cas@chicagoaudubon.org)  
<https://www.chicagoaudubon.org/>

**Chicago Housing Authority**

312-742-8500  
<https://www.thecha.org/>

**Chicago YIMBY**

<https://chicagoyimby.com/>

**Eastside Neighborhood Association**

[www.facebook.com/EastsideNA/](http://www.facebook.com/EastsideNA/)

**Far South Chicago Coalition**

<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Ffarsouthcc%2F>

**Friends of Big Marsh**

<https://bigmarsh.org/friends-of-big-marsh/>

**Friends of the Parks**

67 E. Madison St. #1817  
Chicago, IL 60603  
312-857-2757  
[www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org)

**Friends of Pullman**

<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fpages%2Fcategory%2FNonprofit-Organization%2FFriends-of-Pullman-Chicago-Illinois-239076146672%2F>

**Harborside International Golf Center**

11001 S. Doty Ave. East  
Chicago, IL 60628  
312-782-7837  
<https://www.harborsidegolf.com/>

**Hegewisch Babe Ruth League**

<https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=hegewischbaseball>

**Hegewisch Business Association**

13256 S. Baltimore Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FHegewischBusiness%2F>

**Hegewisch Community Page**

[www.facebook.com/groups/HEGEWISCH/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HEGEWISCH/)

**Historic Pullman Foundation**

614 E. 113th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-785-8901  
[foundation@pullmanil.org](mailto:foundation@pullmanil.org)  
<https://www.pullmanil.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fhistoricpullman%2F>

**Illinois International Port Authority**

3600 E. 95th St.  
Chicago, IL 60617-5193  
773-646-4400  
<https://www.iipd.com/>

**Lake Calumet Vision Committee**

<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F2293859560881692%2F>

**Lebanon Lutheran Church**

<https://www.facebook.com/lebanonlutheranchicago/>

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

100 E. Erie St.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-751-5600  
<https://mwrdr.org/>

**Openlands**

25 E. Washington St., Suite 1650  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312.863.6250  
<https://openlands.org/>

**Pullman Civic Organization**

<http://www.pullmancivic.org/>

**Roseland Christian Ministries**

10858 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-264-5665  
<https://roselandchristianministries.org/>

**Sierra Club**

[www.sierraclub.org/illinois/chicago/](http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/chicago/)

**Southeast Environmental Task Force**

13300 S. Baltimore Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773- 646-0436  
<http://setaskforce.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/setaskforce/>

**The Pullman National Monument**

11001 S. Cottage Grove Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-468-9310  
<https://www.nps.gov/pull/index.htm>  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FPullman-National-Monument-National-Park-Service-1551660871753166%2F%3Ffref>

**The Pullman State Historic Site (State of Illinois)**

11111 S. Forrestville Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
773-660-2341  
<http://www.pullman-museum.org/>  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/experience/sites/northeast/pages/pullman-site.aspx>  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FPullmanStateHistoricSite%2F>

**The Pullman Safety Network**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1694557550831397/>

**Vets Park Improvement Association**

10004 S. Exchange Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617

**Wolf Lake Rod and Gun Club**

13127 S. Ave. M  
Chicago, IL 60633  
773-646-0281  
<https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=114748811888681>

## NEWSPAPERS

### ***Chicago Tribune Daily Southtown***

160 N. Stetson Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-222-3232  
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/>

### ***Chicago Sun-Times***

30 N. Racine Ave., 3rd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312-321-3000  
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/>

### ***The Hegewisch Times***

13100 S. Manistee Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60633  
[www.hegtimes.com/](http://www.hegtimes.com/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fhegtimes%2F>

### ***Northwest Indiana Times Hammond Times***

601 W. 45th Ave.  
Munster, IN 46321  
219-933-3200  
[www.nwitimes.com](http://www.nwitimes.com)

### ***Pullman Flyer***

614 E. 113th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628  
[PullmanFlyerAdvertising@gmail.com](mailto:PullmanFlyerAdvertising@gmail.com)  
[http://www.pullmancivic.org/?page\\_id=977](http://www.pullmancivic.org/?page_id=977)

## RADIO

### **WBBM Newsradio 780 AM & 105.9 FM**

180 N. Stetson, Suite 1100  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-297-7800  
<https://www.audacy.com/wbbm780>

### **WJOB - 1230 AM**

7150 Indianapolis Blvd.  
Hammond, IN 46324  
219-844-1230  
[www.wjob1230.com/](http://www.wjob1230.com/)

### **WBEZ - 91.5 FM (NPR)**

South Side Bureau  
322 E. 75th St.  
Chicago, IL 60619  
312-893-2918  
[www.wbez.org](http://www.wbez.org)

### **WXRT - 93.1 FM**

180 N. Stetson, Suite 100  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-861-9978  
<https://wxrt.radio.com/>

### **WVIV 93.5 & 103.1 FM (Spanish)**

8800 Route 14  
Crystal Lake, IL 60012  
312-670-1000  
<https://www.univision.com/radio/chicago-wviv-fm>

### **WNUA 95.5 FM**

233 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-540-2000  
[www.wnua.com/](http://www.wnua.com/)

### **WDRV 97.1 FM**

875 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1510  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-274-9710  
<http://www.wdrv.com/>

### **WSUN - 99.5 FM**

180 N. Stetson, Suite 100  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-649-0099  
<https://us99.radio.com/>



**WKQX - 101.1 FM**

455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr., 6th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-245-1200  
[www.101wkqx.com](http://www.101wkqx.com)

**WVAZ - 102.7 FM**

V103  
233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2800  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-540-2000  
<https://v103.iheart.com/>

**KISS FM – 103.5**

103.5 Kiss FM  
233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2800  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-540-2000  
<https://1035kissfm.iheart.com/>

**TELEVISION**

**WBBM-TV CBS 2**

22 W. Washington St.  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312-899-2222  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/>

**WMAQ-TV NBC 5**

454 N. Columbus Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-836-5555  
[www.nbcchicago.com/](http://www.nbcchicago.com/)

**WLS-TV ABC 7**

190 N. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-750-7777  
[www.abclocal.go.com/wls/index/](http://www.abclocal.go.com/wls/index/)

**WGN-TV 9**

2501 W. Bradley Place  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-528-2311  
[www.wgntv.com](http://www.wgntv.com)

**WVON 1690 AM**

800 S. Wells St., Suite 170  
Chicago, IL 60607  
773-247-6200  
[https://wvon.com/?page\\_id=8](https://wvon.com/?page_id=8)

**WGRB – 1390 AM**

233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2800  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-540-2000  
<https://inspiration1390.iheart.com/>

**WTTW-TV 11**

5400 N. St. Louis Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-583-5000  
[www.wttw.com](http://www.wttw.com)

**WFLD-TV FOX 32**

205 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
773-528-2311  
[www.myfoxchicago.com/](http://www.myfoxchicago.com/)

**WSNS-TV - Telemundo Chicago**

454 N. Columbus Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-836-3110  
[www.telemundochicago.com/](http://www.telemundochicago.com/)

**WGBO-TV – Univision Chicago**

541 N. Fairbanks Ct.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-670-1000  
[www.univision.com/](http://www.univision.com/)

**Cable News Network (CNN)**

500 W. 33rd St.  
New York, NY 10001  
[www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

## Appendix D

### Community Engagement and the Superfund Process

Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980 known as the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act**, or **CERCLA**, also called Superfund. In 1986, another law, the **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**, or **SARA**, reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities. The CERCLA law gives U.S. EPA the authority to require those parties responsible for creating **hazardous waste** sites to clean up those sites or to reimburse the government if U.S. EPA cleans up the sites. U.S. EPA compels responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, **consent decrees** and other legal settlements. U.S. EPA is authorized to enforce the Superfund laws within Indian reservations, in all 50 states and in U.S. territories. Superfund site identification, monitoring and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal and territorial environmental protection or waste management agencies.

There are several steps involved in cleaning up a contaminated site. Once U.S. EPA has been made aware of a contaminated site from individual citizens, local, tribal or state agencies or others, U.S. EPA follows a step-by-step process (*see the next page of this Appendix*) to determine the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment.

If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, U.S. EPA can intervene with an **emergency response action**. The goal of U.S. EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and the environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of **hazardous substances**. The following pages present diagrams showing Community Involvement in the Removal and Remedial processes.



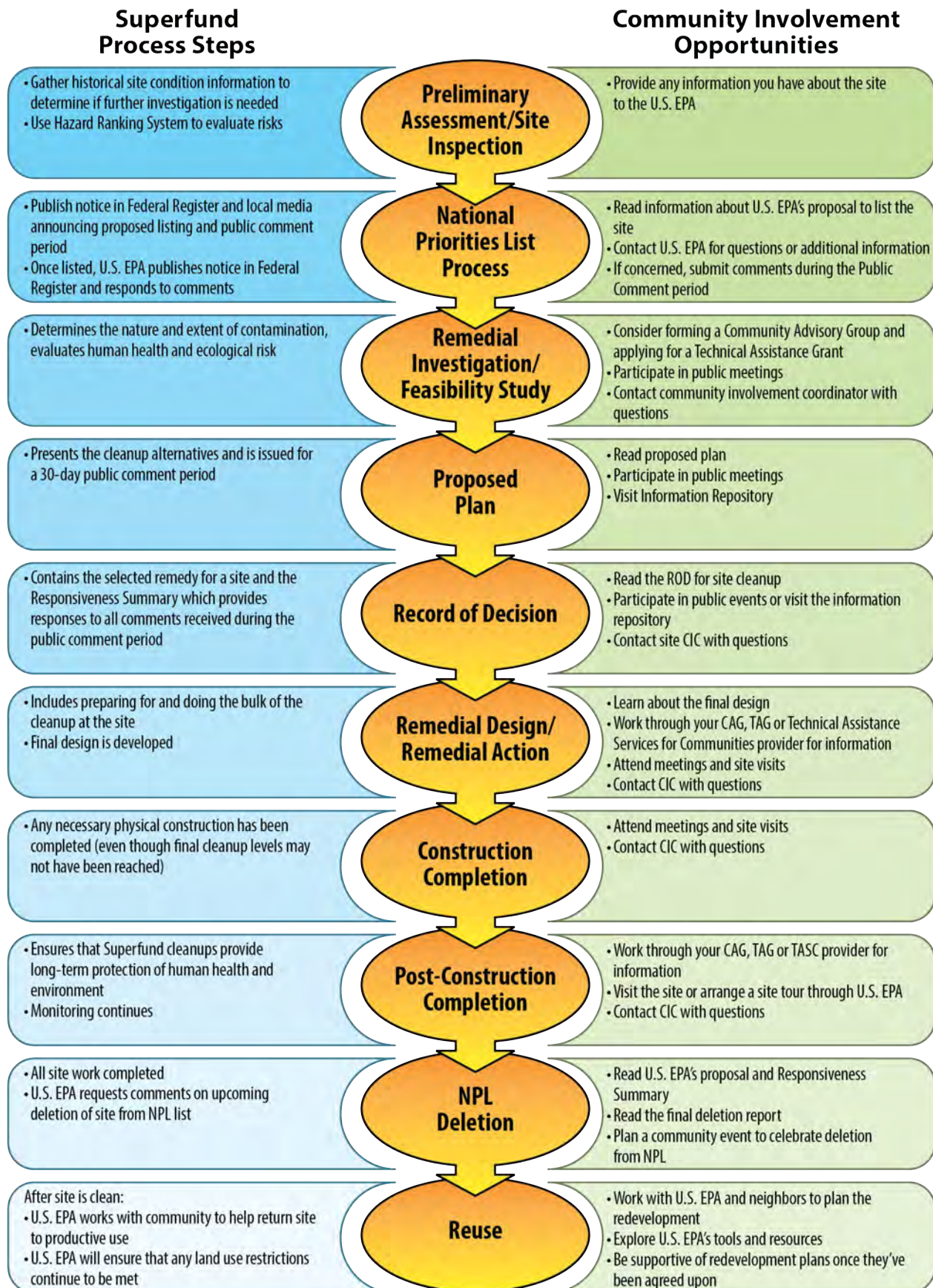
The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all of the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing cleanup actions. U.S. EPA considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program and opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process. At each step in the process, there are opportunities for various levels of community involvement (*see the following page for more details*).

Visit these U.S. EPA websites for more information on the Superfund process.

**Superfund:** [www.epa.gov/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/superfund)

**Cleanup Process:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleaning-superfund-sites>

**Community Involvement:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>



## Appendix E

### FACT SHEETS

#### **SITE-RELATED FACT SHEETS:**

Update on Activities/Opportunity to Talk with U.S. EPA – September 2021

Actualización sobre las actividades del sitio / Oportunidad de hablar con la EPA - Septiembre de 2021

#### **FACT SHEETS ON SITE-CONTAMINANTS:**

Polychlorinated Biphenyls



# Update on Site Activities/ Opportunity to Talk with U.S. EPA

**Lake Calumet Cluster Site**  
Chicago, Illinois

September 2021

## We would like to hear from you!

See the back of this fact sheet for an opportunity to talk one-on-one with U.S. EPA.

## Contact U.S. EPA

For more information about the site contact:

### Cheryl Allen

Community Involvement Coordinator  
312-353-6196  
allen.cheryl@epa.gov

### Shari Kolak

Remedial Project Manager  
312-886-6151  
kolak.shari@epa.gov

You may call U.S. EPA's Chicago office toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## You may review site-related documents at:

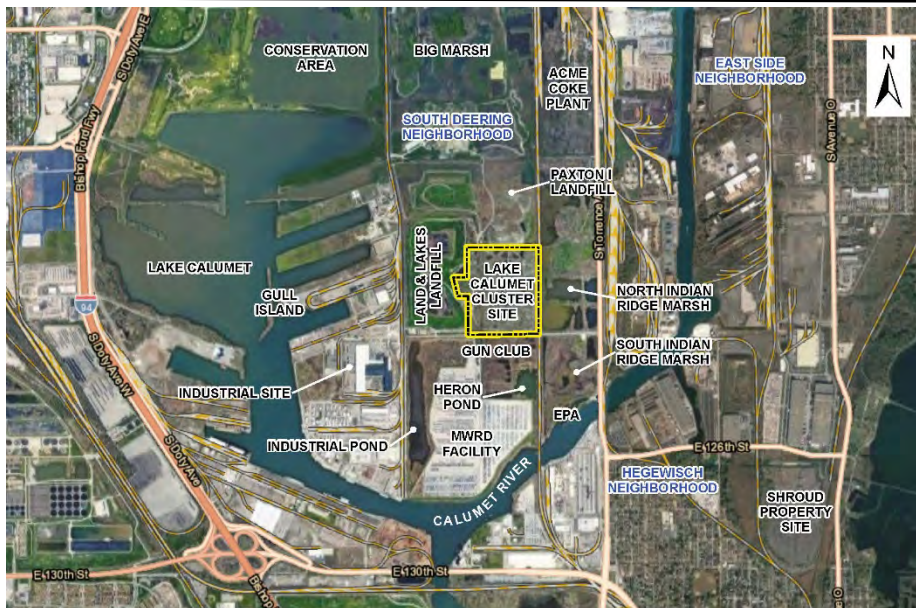
Chicago Public Library, Hegewisch  
3048 E. 130<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chicago, IL 60633

Harold Washington Library Center  
400 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60605

## On the Web:

Site documents can be found on the following website:

[www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster)



Map showing the location of the Lake Calumet Cluster site bordered in yellow.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing investigation and cleanup activities at the Lake Calumet Cluster Superfund site. The 87-acre site in southeast Chicago is made up of four separate parcels including U.S. Drum, Alburn Incinerator, a portion of the Paxton Lagoons, and an unnamed parcel. The site is bordered by Land & Lakes Landfill to the west; Paxton I & II Landfills to the north; 122<sup>nd</sup> Street to the south; and Norfolk Southern Railroad ROW and Indian Ridge Marsh to the east. (See map above.)

The area was originally wetlands that were filled with slag, dredge spoils, demolition debris and other waste material from nearby steel mills and industries from the 1900s through the 1970s. From the 1940s to 1992, the area was used for unpermitted municipal, industrial, and chemical waste disposal. In 1998, Illinois EPA began investigating the site, which led to a decision in 2006 to install a cap, or cover, over a portion of the site. Installation of the cap began in 2007, but construction stopped in 2008 due to the lack of funding. Today, the cap remains partially constructed.

In 2008, U.S. EPA took over the investigation at the site. In 2010, the site was placed on the National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is a list of the nation's Superfund sites. Under the Superfund program, the companies identified as potentially responsible parties for the contamination, referred to as PRPs, were asked to complete an investigation of the groundwater before beginning work on the cap. From 2015 – 2017, 57 groundwater samples were collected from 13 monitoring wells around the site. In addition, the PRPs were requested to sample the surface water in the Indian Ridge Marsh. In 2020, two rounds of surface water samples were taken. U.S. EPA is in the process of reviewing the results of the sampling. The results will be available in the final investigation report, called a remedial investigation report, expected to be completed in 2023.

## ***We would like to hear from you!***

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives would like to talk with area residents about its ongoing investigation and cleanup of the Lake Calumet Cluster site.

Cheryl Allen, U.S. EPA Community Coordinator, and Shari Kolak, U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager, will be available to talk with you over the phone on **Oct. 12, 13 or 14**, between **10 a.m. and 7 p.m.** During the 30-minute session, U.S. EPA will ask questions to help us understand your concerns and questions about ongoing work at the site.

The information gathered from residents will be used to create a Community Involvement Plan, which is a communication strategy guide the agency uses to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund investigation and cleanup process.

If you would like to schedule a time to talk with U.S. EPA, please contact Meg Moosa, U. S. EPA contractor, at: 440-688-4006 or [meg.moosa@tetrattech.com](mailto:meg.moosa@tetrattech.com).

You can also contact Cheryl Allen toll-free at 800-621-8431, Ext. 36196, weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or at [allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov).

For more information on the site, visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster).

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## **LAKE CALUMET CLUSTER SITE: Update on Site Activities/Opportunity to Talk with U.S. EPA**

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 5  
Community Involvement and  
Outreach Section (RE-19J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590





## Septiembre de 2021

This aerial map provides a detailed view of the Calumet River and its surrounding areas. Key features include:

- Water Bodies:** Lake Calumet, Gull Island, Industrial Pond, Heron Pond, and the Calumet River.
- Landmarks:** Conservation Area, Big Marsh, South Deering Neighborhood, Land & Lakes Landfill, Lake Calumet Cluster Site (highlighted with a yellow dashed box), Gun Club, MWRD Facility, Acme Coke Plant, Paxton I Landfill, North Indian Ridge Marsh, South Indian Ridge Marsh, East Side Neighborhood, Hegewisch Neighborhood, and Shroud Property Site.
- Infrastructure:** Major roads like I-90 (E 140th St) and I-55 (E 130th St), and various bridges and overpasses.
- Other Labels:** Industrial Site, EPA, and various street names like E 126th St and E 118th St.

A north arrow is located in the top right corner of the map.

En 2008, la EPA se hizo cargo de la investigación en el sitio. En 2010, el sitio fue incluido en la Lista de Prioridades Nacionales (NPL, por sus siglas en inglés). La NPL es una lista de los sitios *Superfund* del país. Bajo el programa *Superfund*, las empresas identificadas como partes potencialmente responsables de la contaminación, denominados PRP, fueron requeridas a realizar una investigación del agua subterránea antes de comenzar a trabajar en la cubierta. De 2015 a 2017, se recolectaron 57 muestras de agua subterránea de 13 pozos de monitoreo alrededor del sitio. Además, se solicitó a los PRP que tomaran muestras del agua superficial en Indian Ridge Marsh. En 2020, se tomaron dos rondas de muestras de agua superficial. La EPA está en proceso de revisar los resultados del muestreo. Los resultados estarán disponibles en el informe final de la investigación, llamado informe de investigación correctiva, que se espera sea completada en 2023.



## **¡Nos gustaría escucharle!**

A los representantes de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los EE. UU. (U.S. EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) les gustaría hablar con los residentes del area sobre su investigación en curso y la limpieza del sitio grupal de Lake Calumet.

Cheryl Allen, coordinadora de participación comunitaria de la EPA, Y Shari Kolak, administradora del proyecto de restauración de la EPA, estarán disponibles para hablar con usted por teléfono el 12, 13 o 14 de octubre, entre las 10 a.m. y las 7 p.m. Durante la sesión de 30 minutos, la EPA hará preguntas para ayudarnos a comprender sus inquietudes y preguntas sobre el trabajo en curso en el sitio.

La información recopilada de los residentes se utilizará para crear un Plan de Participación Comunitaria, que es una guía de estrategia de comunicación que la agencia utiliza para permitir una participación significativa de la comunidad durante todo el proceso de investigación y limpieza del Superfund.

Si desea programar una hora para hablar con la EPA, Comuníquese con Meg Moosa, contratista de la EPA al teléfono 440-688-4006 o por correo electrónico a [meg.moosa@tetrattech.com](mailto:meg.moosa@tetrattech.com).

También puede comunicarse con Cheryl Allen sin costo al 800-621-8431, ext. 36196, de lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. o por correo electrónico a [allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov).

Para obtener más información sobre el sitio, visite [www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lake-calumet-cluster).

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**SITIO GRUPAL DEL LAGO CALUMET:  
Actualización sobre las actividades del sitio / oportunidad de hablar con la EPA**

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 5  
Community Involvement and  
Outreach Section (RE-19J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590





# Polychlorinated Biphenyls - ToxFAQs™

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about polychlorinated biphenyls. For more information, call the CDC Information Center at 1-800-232-4636. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a mixture of individual chemicals which are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment. Health effects that have been associated with exposure to PCBs include acne-like skin conditions in adults and neurobehavioral and immunological changes in children. PCBs are known to cause cancer in animals. PCBs have been found in at least 500 of the 1,598 National Priorities List (NPL) sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## What are polychlorinated biphenyls?

Polychlorinated biphenyls are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds (known as congeners). There are no known natural sources of PCBs. PCBs are either oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow. Some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air. PCBs have no known smell or taste. Many commercial PCB mixtures are known in the U.S. by the trade name Aroclor.

PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old microscope and hydraulic oils.

## What happens to PCBs when they enter the environment?

- PCBs entered the air, water, and soil during their manufacture, use, and disposal; from accidental spills and leaks during their transport; and from leaks or fires in products containing PCBs.
- PCBs can still be released to the environment from hazardous waste sites; illegal or improper disposal of industrial wastes and consumer products; leaks from old electrical transformers containing PCBs; and burning of some wastes in incinerators.
- PCBs do not readily break down in the environment and thus may remain there for very long periods of time. PCBs can travel long distances in the air and be deposited in areas far away from where they were released. In water, a small amount of PCBs may remain dissolved, but most stick to organic particles and bottom sediments. PCBs also bind strongly to soil.

- PCBs are taken up by small organisms and fish in water. They are also taken up by other animals that eat these aquatic animals as food. PCBs accumulate in fish and marine mammals, reaching levels that may be many thousands of times higher than in water.

## How might I be exposed to PCBs?

- Using old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices and appliances, such as television sets and refrigerators, that were made 30 or more years ago. These items may leak small amounts of PCBs into the air when they get hot during operation, and could be a source of skin exposure.
- Eating contaminated food. The main dietary sources of PCBs are fish (especially sportfish caught in contaminated lakes or rivers), meat, and dairy products.
- Breathing air near hazardous waste sites and drinking contaminated well water.
- In the workplace during repair and maintenance of PCB transformers; accidents, fires or spills involving transformers, fluorescent lights, and other old electrical devices; and disposal of PCB materials.

## How can PCBs affect my health?

The most commonly observed health effects in people exposed to large amounts of PCBs are skin conditions such as acne and rashes. Studies in exposed workers have shown changes in blood and urine that may indicate liver damage. PCB exposures in the general population are not likely to result in skin and liver effects. Most of the studies of health effects of PCBs in the general population examined children of mothers who were exposed to PCBs.

Animals that ate food containing large amounts of PCBs for short periods of time had mild liver damage and some died. Animals that ate smaller amounts of PCBs in food over

# Polychlorinated Biphenyls

several weeks or months developed various kinds of health effects, including anemia; acne-like skin conditions; and liver, stomach, and thyroid gland injuries. Other effects of PCBs in animals include changes in the immune system, behavioral alterations, and impaired reproduction. PCBs are not known to cause birth defects.

## How likely are PCBs to cause cancer?

Few studies of workers indicate that PCBs were associated with certain kinds of cancer in humans, such as cancer of the liver and biliary tract. Rats that ate food containing high levels of PCBs for two years developed liver cancer. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has concluded that PCBs may reasonably be anticipated to be carcinogens. PCBs have been classified as probably carcinogenic, and carcinogenic to humans (group 1) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), respectively.

## How can PCBs affect children?

Women who were exposed to relatively high levels of PCBs in the workplace or ate large amounts of fish contaminated with PCBs had babies that weighed slightly less than babies from women who did not have these exposures. Babies born to women who ate PCB-contaminated fish also showed abnormal responses in tests of infant behavior. Some of these behaviors, such as problems with motor skills and a decrease in short-term memory, lasted for several years. Other studies suggest that the immune system was affected in children born to and nursed by mothers exposed to increased levels of PCBs. There are no reports of structural birth defects caused by exposure to PCBs or of health effects of PCBs in older children. The most likely way infants will be exposed to PCBs is from breast milk. Transplacental transfers of PCBs were also reported. In most cases, the benefits of breast-feeding outweigh any risks from exposure to PCBs in mother's milk.

## How can families reduce the risks of exposure to PCBs?

- You and your children may be exposed to PCBs by eating fish or wildlife caught from contaminated locations. Certain states, Native American tribes, and U.S. territories have issued advisories to warn people about PCB-contaminated fish and fish-eating wildlife. You can reduce your family's exposure to PCBs by obeying these advisories.
- Children should be told not play with old appliances, electrical equipment, or transformers, since they may contain PCBs.

- Children should be discouraged from playing in the dirt near hazardous waste sites and in areas where there was a transformer fire. Children should also be discouraged from eating dirt and putting dirty hands, toys or other objects in their mouths, and should wash hands frequently.
- If you are exposed to PCBs in the workplace it is possible to carry them home on your clothes, body, or tools. If this is the case, you should shower and change clothing before leaving work, and your work clothes should be kept separate from other clothes and laundered separately.

## Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to PCBs?

Tests exist to measure levels of PCBs in your blood, body fat, and breast milk, but these are not routinely conducted. Most people normally have low levels of PCBs in their body because nearly everyone has been environmentally exposed to PCBs. The tests can show if your PCB levels are elevated, which would indicate past exposure to above-normal levels of PCBs, but cannot determine when or how long you were exposed or whether you will develop health effects.

## Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a limit of 0.0005 milligrams of PCBs per liter of drinking water (0.0005 mg/L). Discharges, spills or accidental releases of 1 pound or more of PCBs into the environment must be reported to the EPA. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that infant foods, eggs, milk and other dairy products, fish and shellfish, poultry and red meat contain no more than 0.2-3 parts of PCBs per million parts (0.2-3 ppm) of food. Many states have established fish and wildlife consumption advisories for PCBs.

## References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2000. Toxicological profile for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-57, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027.

Phone: 1-800-232-4636.

ToxFAQs™ Internet address via WWW is <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>.

ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

## Appendix F

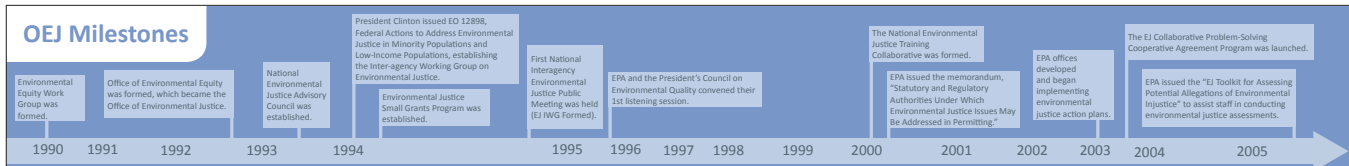
Environmental Justice and U.S. EPA's commitment to the affected communities.

U.S. EPA defines environmental justice as fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people--regardless of race, color, national origin or income--with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, or commercial operations, or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Meaningful involvement means that potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decision-making about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.

## OEJ Milestones



### Environmental Justice Integration

The EPA actively seeks to incorporate the principles of environmental justice at all levels of the Agency. In addition to developing a strategic plan that directly support the integration of environmental justice considerations internally and with other federal officials, the Agency partners with federal, state, local, and tribal departments, as well as with other stakeholders in communities, business and industry, academia, etc., to assist in the consideration and incorporation of environmental justice into their practices and processes.

#### The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG)

The EJ IWG works to integrate the principles of environmental justice through the collaboration of 17 federal agencies and White House offices. Through the EJ IWG, the federal government assists overburdened and under-served communities in the implementation of comprehensive solutions to local environmental and human health challenges. The EJ IWG strives to ensure the federal government is accessible to communities and other stakeholders working to address environmental justice concerns; aware of the environmental justice issues confronting communities to facilitate coordinated and collaborative federal assistance; and accountable to explain federal efforts to achieve environmental justice.

#### International Human Rights & Rights of Indigenous Peoples

EPA collaborates with the U.S. State Department and other federal agencies to engage other countries in sharing best practices and approaches to provide environmental and public health protection to vulnerable populations. EPA conducts this work to help fulfill the U.S. international human rights treaty obligations.

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA provides a framework to foster effective, efficient, and consistent consideration of environmental justice for decision-making on federal actions that affect the environment and human health. The Promising Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in NEPA Reviews, a compilation of approaches gleaned from a 4-year review of agency practices by more than 200 federal NEPA practitioners, consists of nine sections that provide guiding principles and specific steps to consider during the NEPA process. Federal agencies are implementing the Promising Practices through a variety of mechanisms, including cross-department briefings and trainings, publications (e.g. articles, FAQs), and stakeholder engagement.

#### Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each federal agency is required to ensure that all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance do not discriminate against recipients in any way based on race, color, or national origin. OEJ works closely with the EPA's External Civil Rights Compliance Office to share best practices, lessons learned, approaches, and tools to help prevent or resolve potential civil rights complaints.

### Direct Support

The EPA provides direct support through financial and technical assistance to vulnerable, low-income, minority, and tribal communities seeking to understand and develop holistic solutions to their environmental and public health challenges. These resources are allocated to improve the quality of the air, land, and water so that communities may live, work, play, pray, and go to school in healthier, more sustainable environments.

#### Financial Resources for Creating Healthy, Sustainable & Equitable Communities

OEJ works directly with communities to implement solutions that address local environmental and health concerns. The Office provides financial assistance through two opportunities:

- the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, which supports small projects that assist communities as they develop their visions for revitalization.
- the Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, which supports implementation level projects as communities seek to apply holistic solutions to their most pressing challenges.

These competitive grant opportunities support overburdened and underserved populations and create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships to improve local environments and public health. As of 2016, since its inception, the Office has awarded more than \$36 million in financial assistance to nearly 1500 community-based organizations.

To find out more about either of the financial assistance programs or the impact made by funded projects please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

#### Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program

Through the EPA's national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program, communities enhance their ability to be meaningfully involved in the decision making process by learning how to better understand the science, regulations, and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. The TASC program benefits communities by explaining technical findings and answering community questions, helping them understand complex environmental issues, and supporting their active roles in protecting healthy communities and advancing environmental protection. The TASC program can also provide opportunities for environmental education, bring diverse groups together, and strengthen community engagement.

TASC services can include: information assistance and expertise, community education, information assistance needs evaluation, and plan development other assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making.

### Partnerships and Engagement

The EPA recognizes the necessity of meaningfully engaging stakeholders, such as through public participation, in an effort to sustain partnerships and involve those who are affected in the decision-making process so that future decisions may best serve the interests of our most vulnerable communities. The Agency continues to encourage public stakeholder engagement as a critical component of community revitalization.

#### National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

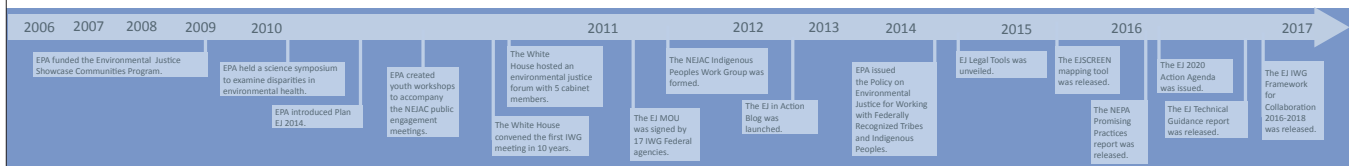
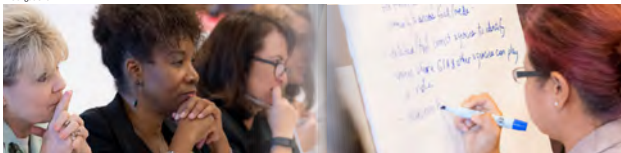
The mission of NEJAC is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator about broad, crosscutting issues related to environmental justice. NEJAC also holds public meetings to receive comments, questions, and recommendations regarding environmental justice issues. Since 1993, NEJAC has developed dozens of recommendation reports and advice letters to help the agency better address the needs of disadvantaged and underserved communities.

To read NEJAC's reports or the twenty-year retrospective of its activities and impact, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nejac>

#### Tribal Consultation & Indigenous People's Engagement

To engage more effectively with federally-recognized tribes and all other indigenous peoples on their priority environmental and public health concerns, the Agency is working to implement the EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples. Under the leadership of OEJ, EPA is implementing this Policy in coordination and collaboration with tribes, other federal agencies, states, indigenous organizations, and all other interested stakeholders, as well as addressing issues raised within the context of international human rights treaty obligations.

To learn more about OEJ's efforts on addressing tribal and indigenous environmental and public health issues, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>





**Find out more about what our regional offices are doing for environmental justice in your community!**

Region 1 (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)  
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: 617-918-1111

Region 2 (NY, NJ, PR, VI)  
290 Broadway, 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-637-3000

Region 3 (MD, DE, DC, PA, VA, WV)  
1550 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-814-5000

Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Phone: 404-562-9900

Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)  
77 West Jackson Blvd. (MC T-175)  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507  
Phone: 312-353-2000

Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)  
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2713  
Phone: 214-665-2200

Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)  
11203 Renner Blvd.  
Kansas City, KS 66219  
Phone: 913-551-7003

Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)  
1595 Wykoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Phone: 303-312-6312

Region 9 (CA, AZ, HI, NV, Pacific Islands)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415-947-8000

Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)  
1200 Sixth Ave (MD-142)  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Phone: 206-553-1200

## Tools and Products for Environmental Justice Action

*OEJ programs have established the following tools and resources to facilitate and support the incorporation of environmental justice considerations into agency actions. These cross-cutting efforts aim to create consistency and clarity around how EPA identifies and addresses environmental justice concerns.*

### EISCREEN

To better meet the Agency's responsibilities related to the protection of public health and the environment, EPA has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. EISCREEN provides users with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. EPA made this tool publicly available online to be more transparent about how we consider environmental justice in our work, assist our stakeholders in making informed decisions, and create a common starting point for dialogue with partners and the public. It can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

### Policy

EPA released two documents related to the consideration of environmental justice during rulemaking processes. The first of these, *Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of an Action*, fosters an understanding and ensures consistency by EPA staff as they consider environmental justice during rulemaking actions. The second document, *Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis*, provides the technical underpinnings to fully consider environmental justice during rulemakings. Both documents can be found on <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>.

### Training and Workshops

OEJ provides training and coordinates workshops for internal and external stakeholders on a broad range of issues relating to environmental justice and equitable development. OEJ ensures that Agency staff are trained on the most current data and resources available for the successful integration of environmental justice principles in their work. OEJ continually engages the public and other governmental partners to enhance the tools, methods, and practices for full integration and consideration of environmental justice concerns.

### Science

Science plays an important role in providing a strong basis for action to protect the health and environment of populations that may be especially vulnerable to environmental hazards. EPA's new technical guidance for assessing environmental justice in regulatory actions was developed with participation from the public. OEJ is working with the Office of Research and Development to implement a new Environmental Justice Research Roadmap, which integrates environmental justice-related research across six National Research Programs. To read about these scientific developments, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-resources#documents>

### Environmental Justice Legal Tools

The Legal Tools Development document, developed by EPA's Office of General Counsel, provides an overview of several discretionary legal authorities that EPA may consider using to more fully ensure that its programs, policies, and activities fully protect human health and the environment in minority and low-income communities. Some of the tools identified are already in use today; others have not yet been applied in an environmental justice setting. EJ Legal Tools is not a document prescribing when and how the Agency should undertake specific actions.



## About the Office of Environmental Justice

For over 25 years, OEJ has worked to address the disproportionately adverse human health and environmental impacts in overburdened communities by integrating environmental justice considerations throughout the Agency.

Created in 1992, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) coordinates Agency efforts to address the needs of vulnerable populations by decreasing environmental burdens, increasing environmental benefits, and working collaboratively to build healthy, sustainable communities. OEJ provides financial and technical assistance to communities working constructively and collaboratively to address environmental justice issues. The Office also works with local, state, and federal governments; tribal governments; community organizations; business and industry, and academia, to establish partnerships seeking to achieve protection from environmental and health hazards for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

To accomplish this mission, OEJ has created the following programs, policies, and activities to assist communities in building their capacity; to better engage federal agencies to help them understand environmental justice issues; to incorporate the voices of communities into agency decisions; and to provide tools and resources for promoting the principles of environmental justice.



## Strategic Opportunities for Advancing Environmental Justice

An integral part of the Agency's mission is to focus our attention on the environmental and public health challenges that face our nation's minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous populations. Our approach is both collaborative and strategic – working with partners to create holistic solutions that make a difference in communities through better policies, tools, and application of resources. These approaches have been captured through successive EJ strategic plans for the Agency.

The first of these plans largely focused on the creation of better tools, policies, and guidance to fill important gaps. Currently we are focused on three main strategic areas.

- We strive to strengthen and expand our governmental partnerships, particularly focused on the proactive efforts of state, tribal, and local governments to advance environmental justice.
- We are also focused on the implementation and use of the tools and guidance created previously in a way that is measurable and significant.
- We endeavor to demonstrate measurable progress on significant issues, including reducing disparities in childhood blood lead levels and working to ensure that all people served by small community and tribal water systems have drinking water that meets applicable health-based standards.



## For More Information

To find out more about the Office of Environmental Justice, please call 202-564-2515, or visit: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)

Call the EJ Hotline for a direct way to provide feedback and ask questions related to environmental justice. Call the Hotline at 1-800-962-6215 or email [ejhotline@epa.gov](mailto:ejhotline@epa.gov).

*Did You Know?*

November 2, 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the creation of the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.

